■ NEWS/A4

Another Bayan leader gunned down in Isabela

■ BUSINESS/B1

Megaworld clinches P7.2-B Chinatown deal, said to be Metro's largest real estate dev't

■ WORLD/A25

US Marines went door to door to kill civilians in Iraqi town

■ ENTERTAINMENT/A2-3

Is there anything Meryl Streep can't do? And she sings, too, at Hollywood Bowl show

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Friday, June 9, 2006 ★★ 6 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 181 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Explosive anger is a disease afflicting 16M Americans

SAKIT NA PALA YUNG MAINITIN ANG ULO!

CHICAGO—TO YOU, THAT angry, horn-blasting tailgater is suffering from road rage.

But doctors have another name for it—intermittent explosive disorder—and a new study suggests it is far more

EXPLOSIVE/ A8

Susan not going to rites for FPJ's Nat'l Artist award

By Christine O. Avendaño, Vincent Cabreza and Fe Zamora

IT WILL BE THE FIRST TIME IN THE 34 YEARS of the National Artist Award that no family member of a deceased awardee will be present at the conferment rites to be held today in Malacañang.

But Malacañang officials made it clear yesterday that President Macapagal-Arroyo would not withdraw the proclamation of Fernando Poe Jr.

SUSAN/ A8

US air strike kills Iraq's top terrorist

Zarqawi had $25M on his head like ally Bin Laden

IRAQ'S OSAMA BIN LADEN: Recent but undated image shows Iraq's most wanted, Jordanian-born Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. AFP

BAGHDAD, IRAQ—AL-QAIDA'S leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi in Iraq, who led a bloody campaign of suicide bombings and kidnappings, has been killed in a US air strike, American and Iraqi officials announced yesterday.

The officials said the identity of al-Zarqawi, who carried a $25-million bounty on his head, was confirmed by fingerprints and a look at his face.

Washington and its allies hailed the killing of the 39-year-old militant as a major victory in the US-led war in Iraq and the global campaign against terror.

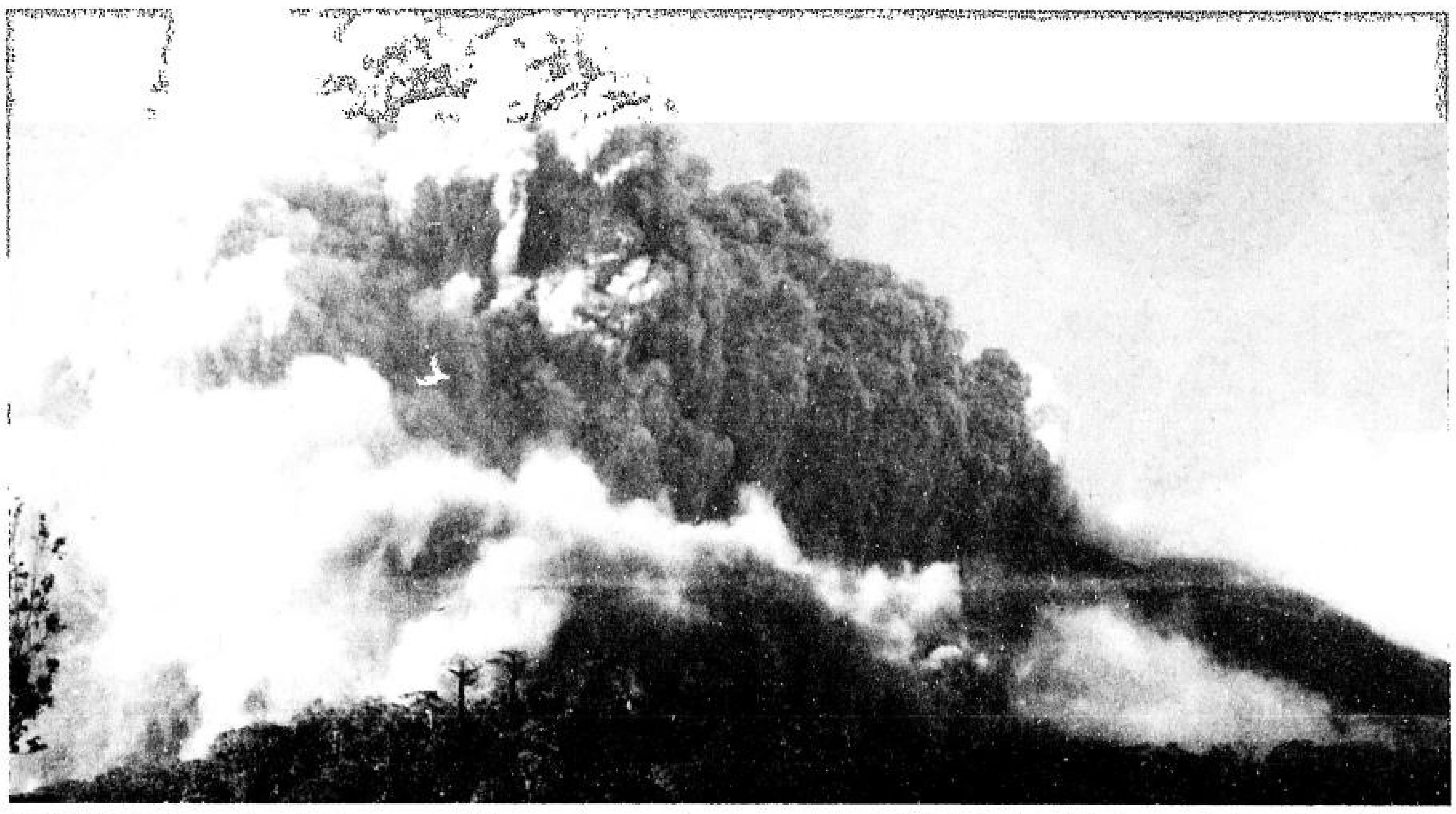
International markets also welcomed al-Zarqawi's death. The world price for US crude dipped below $70 per barrel for the first time in two weeks on Thursday.

As the news broke into the programming of most Arab TV stations, a note posted on an Islamic extremist website—known as a clearinghouse for statements by the al-Qaida in Iraq—lamented: "We hope this news is not true."

The Jordanian-born extremist, who is believed to have personally beheaded at least two American hostages, became Iraq's most wanted terrorist in 2004 when he swore allegiance to Osama bin Laden. The United States offered a $25-million reward for each of them. *(Related story on Page A10.)*

Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki said al-Zarqawi was killed along with seven aides

US AIR/ A10



ALERT LEVEL 2: Mount Bulusan in Sorsogon, one of the country's most active volcanoes, spewed ash during its phreatic (no lava expelled) eruption on May 31. On Thursday, scientists from the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology raised the alert following the volcano's eruption on Wednesday evening when it ejected ash and steam 2 kilometers into the sky. They also warned of more explosions. *(Story on Page A17.)* AP

'Nicole' weeps as witness tells how GIs dumped her

By Tarra V. Quismundo

MORE THAN AN HOUR INTO the testimony of a prosecution witness yesterday, the Filipino woman who accused four US Marines of rape tearfully left the courtroom of the Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 139.

"Nicole" walked out embraced by her brother at 2:25 p.m. and returned 30 minutes later, after businessman Joseph Khonghun had finished testifying on direct examination.

She had earlier wept several times and cried out loud at one point as Khonghun went about retelling for the court what he witnessed on the night of Nov. 1, 2005.

It was the third time Nicole broke down in court since the trial began on June 2 in the sala of Judge Benjamin Pozon.

With roughly 40 prosecution witnesses to go and at least seven defense witnesses to be presented, the court has until Dec. 27 to decide the rape case, based on a provision of the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement.

Pozon has issued an order declaring Dec. 27, 2005, as the start of the countdown for the one-year period that the controversial agreement prescribes for Philippine courts to decide cases against US servicemen.

On that date, the rape case against Staff Sgt. Chad Brian Carpentier and Lance Corporals Keith Silkwood, Dominic Duplantis and Daniel Smith was elevated to the Olongapo Regional Trial Court, the first court to handle it.

Pozon released the order on Wednesday afternoon, in response to the private prosecution's motion for the court's clarification on the prescribed one-year period.

The judge favored the defense's contention that "judicial

NICOLE/ A10

Adult Aetas learn ABCs through 2-way radio

By Julie M. Aurelio

BAMBAN, TARLAC—TIRSO Sumawang still remembers how nervous he felt when he first held a pencil in his gnarled fingers. His hands trembled as he produced a scrawl, the letters'large and shaky.

But an encouraging voice urged the 30-year-old to try again. Marielyn Quintana, a Social Science and Education teacher at the University of Sto. Tomas (UST), prodded him on from 93 km away. At the same time, Lucy Guya, a parateacher, stood over Tirso's shoulder to guide him as he copied the letters of the alphabet.

This is UST's unique approach to distance education—nonformal classes conducted through a two-way radio. Lessons are broadcast four days a week to five sitios in Bamban, mostly populated by Aeta adults who never had a chance to go to school.

Tirso, an Aeta with curly hair, dark skin and a small frame, lives in the sleepy and mountainous Sitio Malasa in Bamban. His people and their *unat* (straight-haired) neighbors peacefully coexist despite the lack of electricity and paved roads.

Parents in the community gather twice a week to attend classes facilitated by Quintana and Guya. Their room serves as a morning daycare center and a learning

ADULT/ A10

'Absurd,' PSG denies part in Erap 5 affair

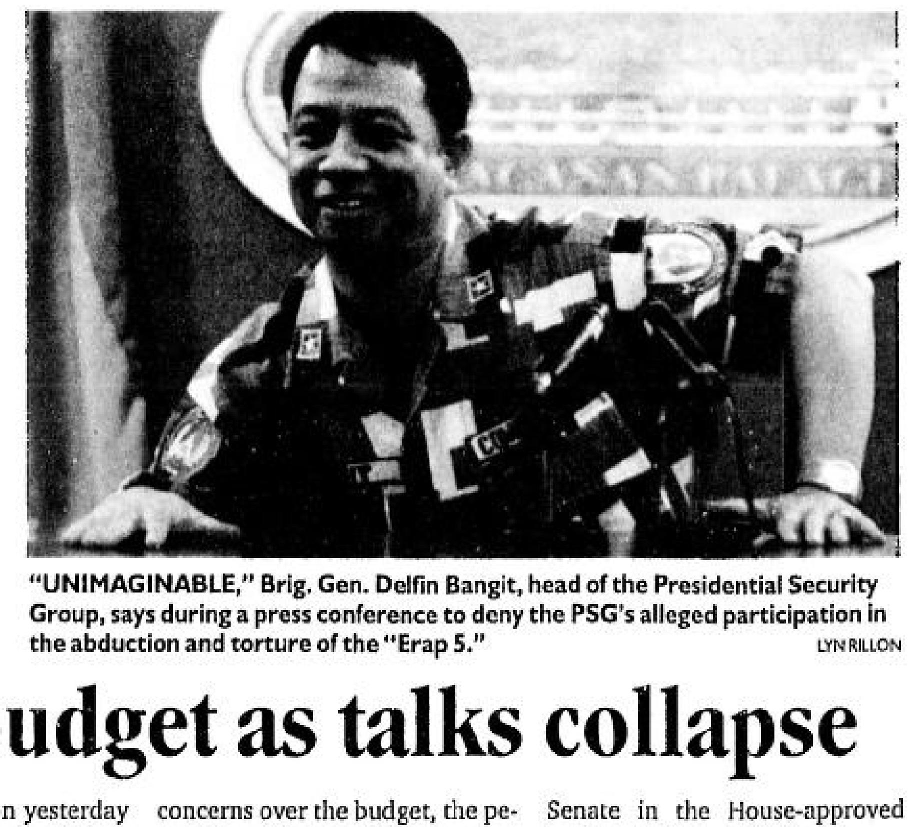
By Christine O. Avendaño and Nelson F. Flores

THE CHIEF OF THE PRESIDENTIAL SECURITY GROUP yesterday hotly denied reports that his men took part in the abduction and alleged torture last month of five men associated with deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Without naming the INQUIRER, PSG chief Brig. Gen. Delfin Bangit "deplored" the "publication" for reporting that two members of the elite unit assigned to protect President Macapagal-Arroyo and her family were involved in the May 22 warrantless arrests that the Armed Forces admitted only after 48 hours.

Like other news organizations, the INQUIRER had quoted Sen. Rodolfo Biazon as telling a Senate hearing on

ABSURD/ A8



"UNIMAGINABLE," Brig. Gen. Delfin Bangit, head of the Presidential Security Group, says during a press conference to deny the PSG's alleged participation in the abduction and torture of the "Erap 5." LYN RILLON

Ombudsman starts daily hearings on Mega-Pacific

By Armand N. Nocum and Nelson F. Flores

THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSman has started an intensive preliminary investigation into the liability of certain Commission on Election (Comelec) officials in the P1.3-billion Mega Pacific contract to supply the poll body with counting machines, which the Supreme Court had voided.

The Supreme Court asked Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez in March to explain why she should not be held in contempt for her failure to comply fully with the high tribunal's directive to determine the criminal liability of those involved in the contract.

The court directed the Ombudsman to report on the progress of the case every three months and to resolve it by June 30.

The Mega-Pacific contract was

OMBUDSMAN/ A8

It's back to '05 budget as talks collapse

By Michael Lim Ubac and TJ Burgonio

IT APPEARS TO BE THE END OF the road for the P1.053-trillion national budget for 2006 proposed by President Macapagal-Arroyo to Congress.

The Senate and the House of Representatives adjourned their second regular session yesterday without putting the budget bill to bed.

"If there is no agreement at the bicameral conference, there is no budget for Congress to ratify. Then it will be a reenacted budget," Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor said.

Partly hit in recent weeks by concerns over the budget, the peso fell to a five-month low against the dollar yesterday. *(See story in Business, Page B1.)*

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda said the bicameral conference was dead.

Salceda said last-ditch efforts to narrow, if not fully restore, the P26.3 billion in cuts made by the Senate in the House-approved budget had proved futile.

"As House panel head, I have called off further negotiations on the budget since all options for a viable agreement have been explored and exhausted," said Salceda in a text message Wednesday night.

IT'S BACK/ A10

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.
SOURCE PAGASA

COMPILED BY KATE V PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/06/08/06

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FrontPage

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FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 2006

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	**Roxas**	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	**Cebu**	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	**Tacloban**	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	**Gen. Santos**	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	**Zamboanga**	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	**Cagayan de Oro**	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	**Davao**	Cloudy with Rains

Transition to be smooth, say Drilon, Villar

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

OUTGOING SENATE PRESIDENT FRANKLIN Drilon yesterday said he would make no apologies for incurring the ire of Malacañang, while his successor, Sen. Manuel Villar, moved to dispel expectations he would be more accommodating to the administration by giving assurances he would take an independent, if not critical, stance.

Drilon and incoming Senate head Villar issued the statements in a joint press conference called mainly to convey that a smooth transition of leadership was in the offing on July 24. The two made a show of unity hours before the Senate adjourned its session.

The press conference was staged after Villar secured the 14 signatures needed to take over the position, a month earlier than the designated date he was set to succeed Drilon under a term-sharing agreement forged in 2004.

"As called for in our gentleman's agreement two years ago, I will nominate, and with the support of the majority coalition in the Senate, we will elect Senator Manny Villar as Senate president on July 24 when the third regular session of the 13th Congress begins," Drilon said in a prepared statement.

In his valedictory at the sine die adjournment, Drilon noted how a "vindictive" administration had vilified the Senate as obstructionist and composed of destabilizers.

But he said the Senate went on to investigate government anomalies and fought presidential orders that trampled upon civil liberties.

"If I had incurred the ire of the present administration because of my steadfast commitment to preserve and promote democracy, there never will be an iota of regret in my heart," Drilon said. "It was a decision that had nothing to do with my political life but a decision I made in defense of democracy."

Villar gave assurances he would preserve the independent tradition of the Senate under his watch.

"The Senate faced so many challenges in the past years and I admire Frank for defending the Senate and our democracy and I do not see any change in (this direction). It is very important that the Senate remains as an institution," Villar said in response to Drilon.

Malacañang for its part could hardly contain its elation over the changing of the guard at the Senate.

"We hope with the change of leadership that something good will come out in terms of the relationship of the Palace and the Senate. Hopefully, we will be able to amend the problems and the conflicts that we have had with the Senate," said Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor in a briefing.

Defensor said that having a dependable ally as head of the Senate was important for the administration not only in the smoother passage of Palace-endorsed bills but also in nurturing peaceful political environment.

"If Senator Drilon had remained as our ally, the political crisis that faced the President would have be tempered even if we don't have the numbers in the Senate," Defensor said.

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Solons insist '07 polls will push through

LEGISLATORS YESTERDAY SCOFFED AT THE warning by Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos that the 2007 national elections would be scrapped if Congress failed to pass the 2006 national budget.

Senators and congressmen said they could pass a supplemental budget for the elections.

"The Comelec should not be prophets of doom or prophets of improbability by saying that if the 2006 budget is not passed, there can be no elections in May 2007 because there will be no money to fund it," Sen. Joker Arroyo said.

"That would not and cannot happen."

Without a new budget, the maverick administration senator said Congress could pass a special appropriations bill to cover the preparations for the mid-term elections.

"That is not a problem at all. The scare tactic of Comelec won't work," he said in a statement.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said Congress could pass a supplemental budget while Senate President Franklin Drilon said President Macapagal-Arroyo could tap her contingency fund to finance the elections.

"That has been done in the past; that's no big deal," Pimentel said, referring to the passage of a supplemental budget for the elections.

Abalos had warned that next year's elections would not push through if Congress failed to pass the Malacañang-proposed P1.053-trillion outlay, which included preparatory funds for the exercise.

Without elections, the House would be left with no members, and Senate with only 12 lawmakers, a setup that would set off a constitutional crisis, he further warned.

Congress adjourned yesterday with the bicameral conference committee failing to break the stalemate over the huge gaps in the two chambers' versions and enact the budget which included a P3.1-billion outlay for the Comelec.

Pimentel conceded that Abalos was "technically correct" to warn that the elections would not push ahead without a budget, but theorized that he was merely mouthing a Palace line.

In the House of Representatives, Tarlac Rep. Jesli Lapus, chair of the House ways and means committee, also said that Congress could pass a supplemental budget as it had done in the past for holding the elections.

Lapus assured that the government would have funding for the 2007 elections even if it continued to operate under a reenacted budget next year.

"Budgetary constraints will not be a major obstacle for the people's exercise of their right to suffrage. If government can't fund the polls, Congress can legislate special funding for the elections," said Lapus. *TJ Burgonio, Michael Lim Ubac and Philip C. Tubeza*

Another Batangas blast

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—AIR FORCE bomb experts destroyed a package suspected of containing an explosive device, causing a loud explosion at the compound of the Batangas provincial capitol yesterday. No one was reported hurt.

The package was found at the provincial council building within the compound on Thursday, exactly a week after a high-impact explosive almost killed Batangas Gov. Armando Sanchez.

The two-story building is located about 300 meters away from the scene of the explosion on June 1 of Sanchez's Hummer H2 vehicle that was found to have been planted with powerful explosives. Two people, Sanchez's driver and police bodyguard, died in the explosion.

Jaimee Mauricio, correspondent of RMN radio, said the package was found just outside the office of the provincial council.

Supt. Nilo Anzo, Batangas City police chief, said he could not confirm what type of bomb was in the package.

He said an employee of the provincial council received a call from an unidentified person who said a bomb had been planted in the building. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Malaria alert up in Subic, S Cotabato

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IS closely watching two areas—in Subic, Zambales, and a town in South Cotabato—after reports of clustering of malaria cases over the past two months in the localities.

Twenty-seven malaria cases have so far been reported in Sitio Gala in Subic since April, according to a DOH statement, with one case leading to the death of girl.

The resurgence of the disease became evident when four people stricken with malaria were admitted to an Olongapo City hospital.

One of the four, a 10-year-old girl, succumbed to cerebral malaria on Sunday. Two of the patients are still confined in the hospital, while the fourth has been discharged.

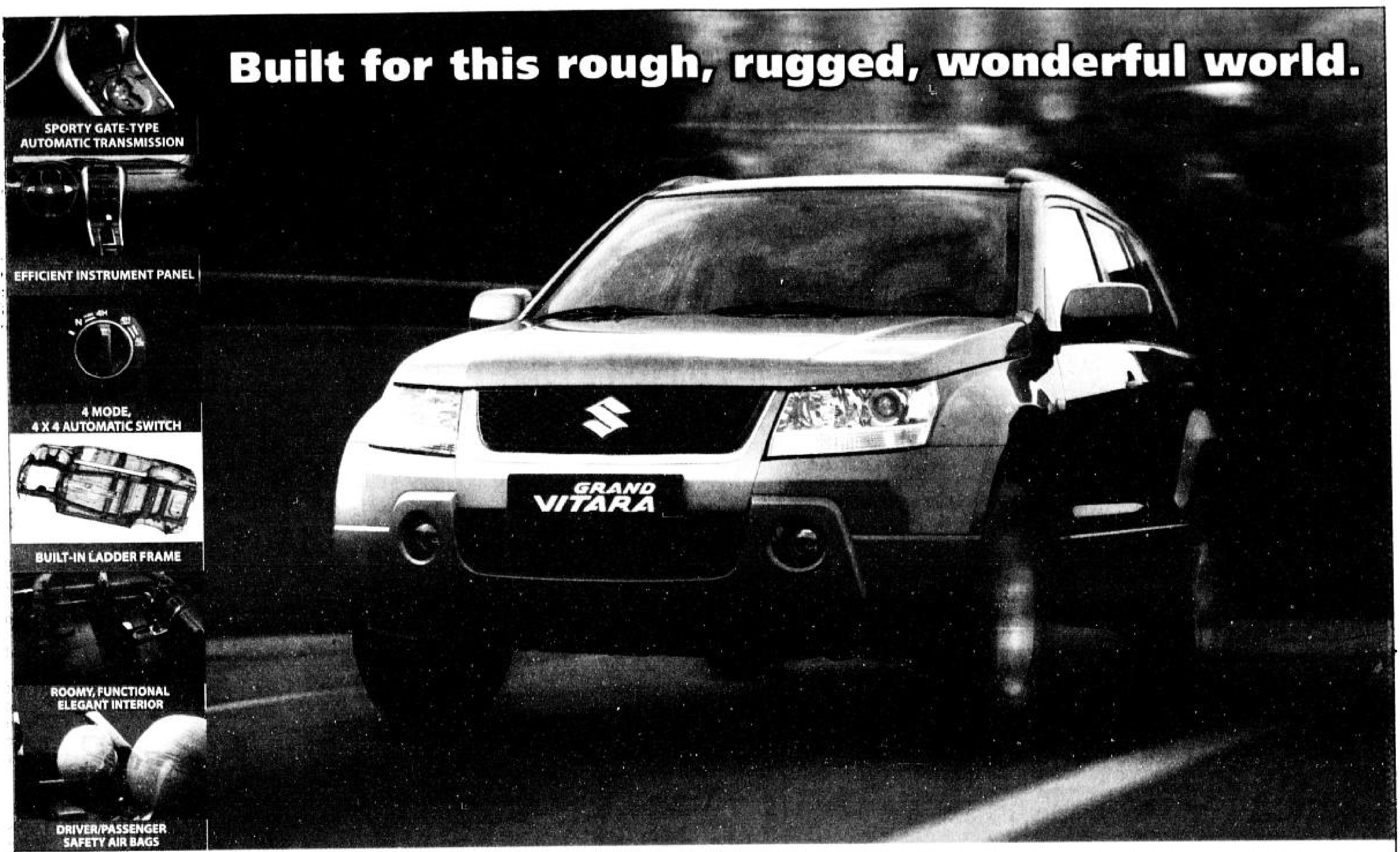
An investigation of the Center for Health Development of Central Luzon and the local health office found out that most of the cases since April originated from indigenous groups in Sitio Gala. A mass blood survey, which is yet to be completed, has come out with 27 malaria cases.

In Tupi, South Cotabato, 28 malaria cases have been recorded since early May, with most of the infected coming from Barangay Palian.

The Malaria Control Team in South Cotabato said creeks and poor environmental and housing conditions in affected barangay spawned disease-carrying mosquitoes triggering the outbreak.

To curb infection, the DOH has distributed mosquito nets, spray insecticide and conducted an information and education campaign among residents in malaria zones, and people in neighboring barangay.

Leila B. Salaverria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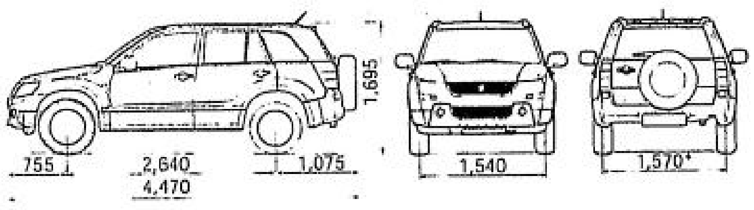

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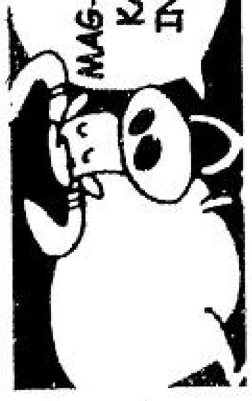
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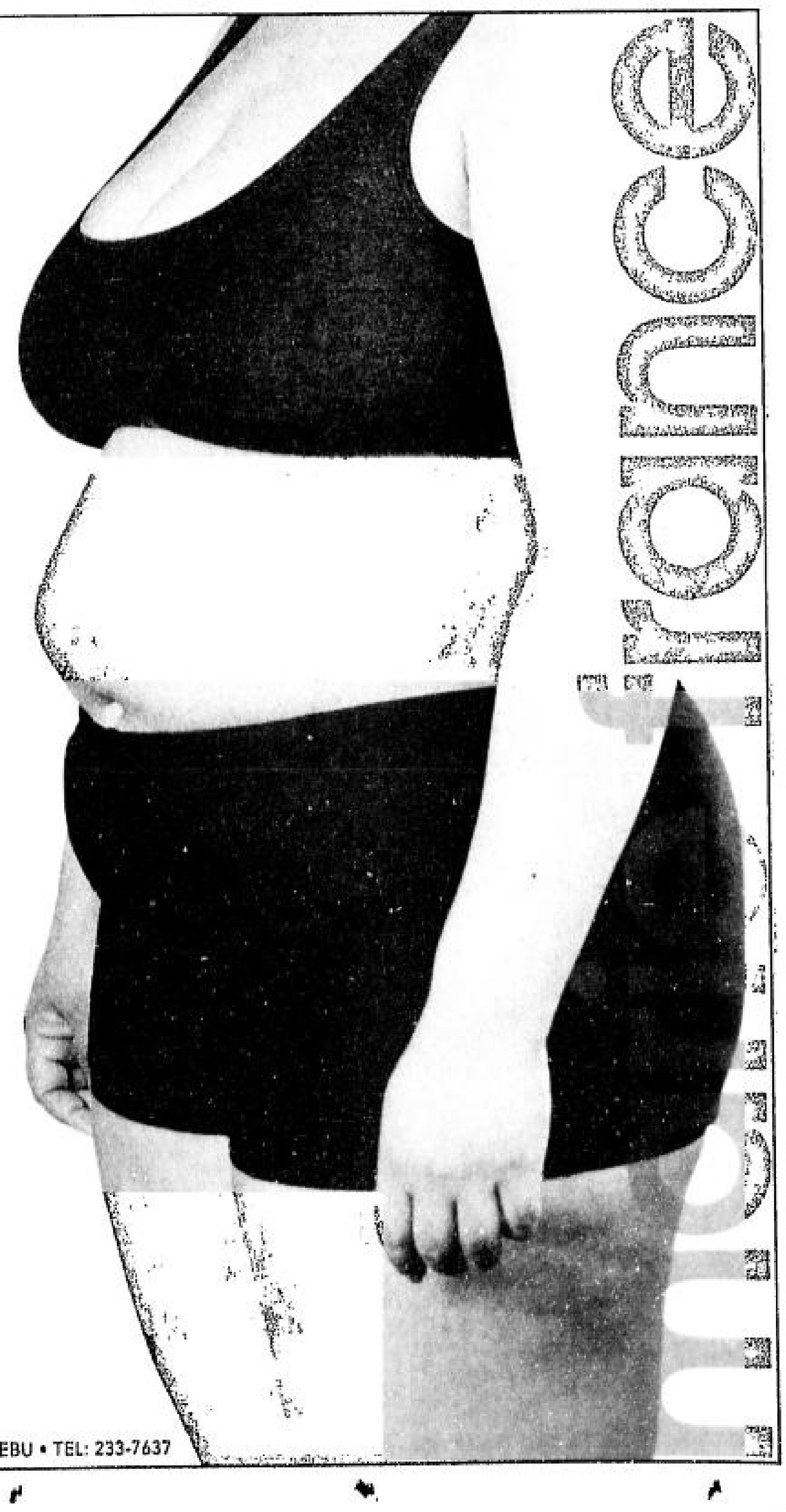

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Another militant leader gunned down in Isabela

By Luige A. del Puerto

YET ANOTHER LEFTIST ACTIVIST HAS BEEN shot dead in Isabela, the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) reported yesterday.

Bayan identified the latest victim as Markus Bangit, a member of the Cordillera People's Alliance regional council and spokesperson of the CPA elders' organization.

"He was shot dead at the Pines restaurant in San Isidro, Isabela, by people wearing bonnets on board a van," said Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes Jr.

CPA is the Bayan chapter in the Cordilleras.

Quoting reports from the field, Reyes said Bangit was traveling in a bus on his way to Baguio City.

Samuel Anongos, a member of the CPA elders' desk, said Bangit accompanied by his son left Tabuk, Kalinga, after 5 p.m. The attack occurred when the bus stopped at the restaurant to allow its passengers to take their dinner.

"I'm not sure how long he was tailed. Of course, you can't use a motorcycle when crossing (provinces)," Reyes said, referring to the fact that most leftists killed earlier had been attacked by motorcycle-riding gunmen.

"The only thing that was clear was that the assailants were on board a van," Reyes said.

Senior Supt. Oscar Fiesta, Isabela police director, said Gloria Casuga, principal of the Quezon National High School in Quezon, Isabela, was also killed after she was hit by stray bullets.

Reyes said Bangit was brought to the Echague District Hospital in Echague town, about 3 km from San Isidro, where he died. He had taken five bullets to the body.

Chief Supt. Jefferson Soriano, Region I police director, said the assailants continued to shoot at Bangit even as he lay on the ground.

Bangit was a former secretary general of the CPA-Kalinga chapter and a Bayan Muna leader, according to Bayan.

And as in the past, Bayan blamed the government for its failure to check the wave of assassinations.

"Death warrants against activists remain despite the so-called abolition of the death penalty. Markus Bangit's death shows how ineffective government is in stopping the killing," the Bayan official said. *With a report from Villamor Visaya Jr. and Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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7:30AM - Friendship Parade & Exchange of flags & gifts (Filipino Students w/ Ati-Atihan and Chinese Students w/ Dragon & Lion Dancers)
- Ribbon cutting of CFBCI at Its Best Exhibit
8:00AM - Program
-Awarding of Mural Painting Competition Winners
-Cultural Show (Filipino & Chinese Musical)
9:00AM - Animal Show
10:00AM - Puppet Show
1:00PM - Dog Show & Competition
4:00PM - Martial Arts Exhibition
5:00PM - "Kabataang Maynila: Umindak Sumayaw Iwas Droga" Dance Competition
8:00PM - Fireworks Display
8:15PM - Street Party w/ Live Bands

Venue B - ONGPIN ST. (BESIDE BINONDO CHURCH)

9:00AM - 3:00PM - Foreign and Local Jobs Fair
9:00AM - 12:00NN - *Free* Chinese and Filipino Medical Mission
9:00AM - 10:00PM - Mini Fil-Chi Food Festival
1:00PM - 4:00PM - *Free* Anti-Rabies Vaccination
9:00AM - 4:00PM - *Free* Trade and Livelihood Demos
9:00AM - 4:00PM - Fire Fighting Demo (Experience to be a Full Gear Fire Fighter)
9:00AM - 10:00PM - Inventor's Fair
9:00AM - 4:00PM - Issuance of Senior Citizen Cards & *Free Reading Glasses*
9:00AM - 4:00PM - *Free* "How to Start Business & "Business On Line" Seminars
1:00PM - 3:00PM - *Free* "Productivity Awareness" Seminar

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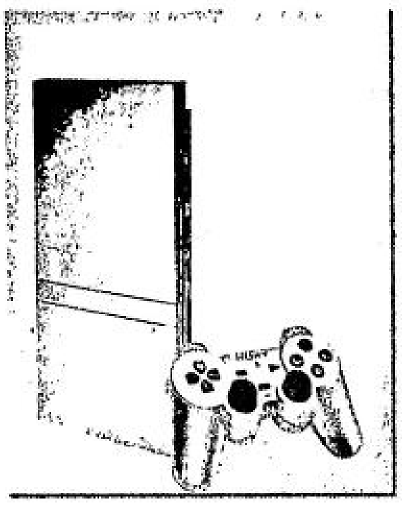

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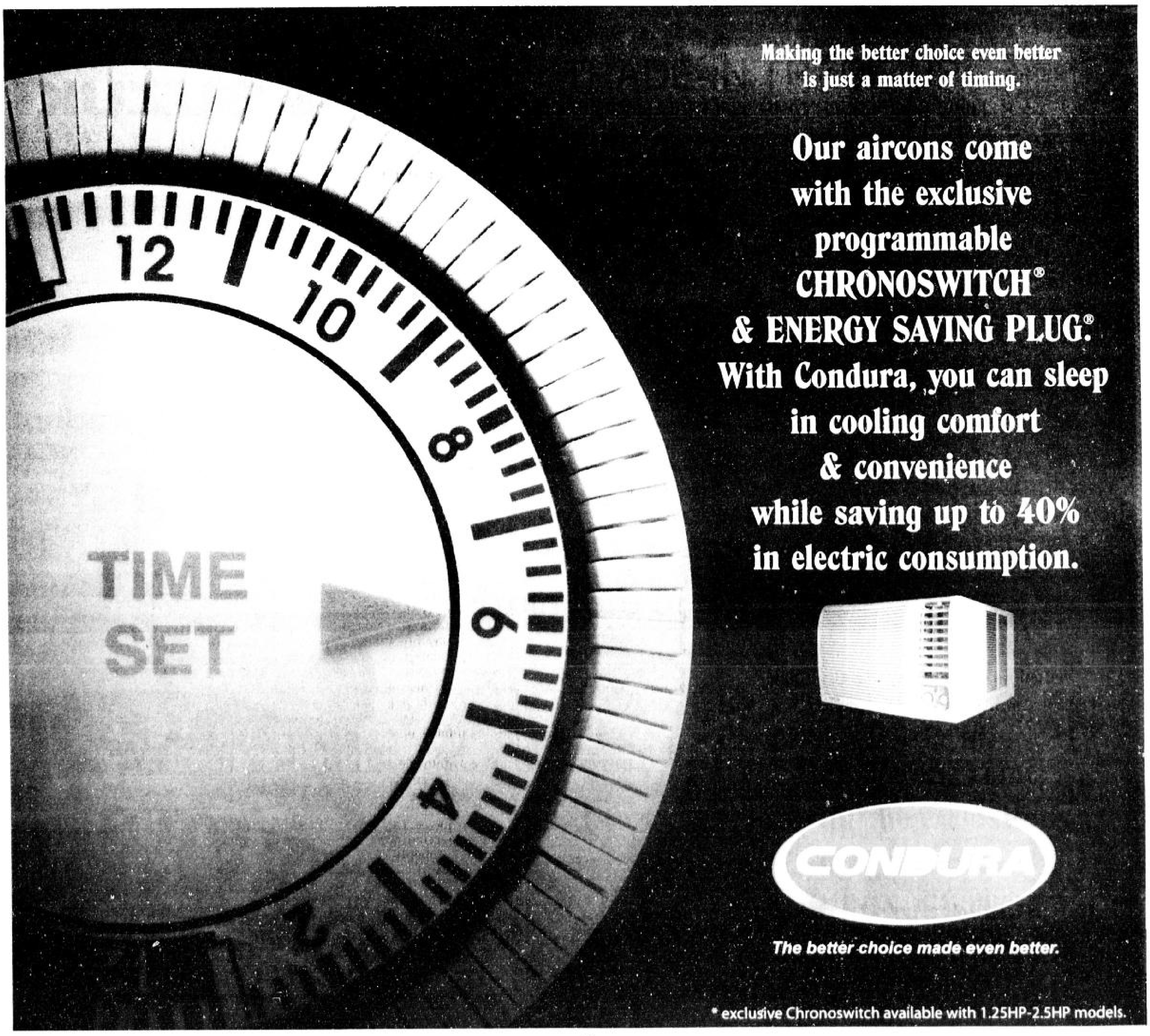
* Cash Purchases only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GlobeQUEST Unveils ICON: RP's 1st Nationwide Multi-Service MPLS Network

We at Innove Communications, as the wireline subsidiary of Gobe Telecom, have continuously invested in enhancing our networks to meet the business needs of our customers.

Providing the latest services, especially for our enterprise customers, has always been a priority in our facilities and infrastructure planning. GlobeQUEST, the corporate product brand of Innove, has already delivered products such as WIZ, BIZ, Touchpoint and Store Express to address the demand for segment-specific solutions.

Today, we are proud to bring you GlobeQUEST ICON (IP-Converged Optical Network), our enhanced multi-service GlobeQUEST MPLS network, a first of its kind in the Philippines, enabling you to break away from the pack and build your competitive edge. Using MPLS and IP technology with differentiated levels enabling greater capacity at the core, flexible service delivery at the edge, and higher availability at the access layer, GlobeQUEST ICON brings your businesses to the fore of technology, makes you more globally competitive, and allows you to provide better services to your customers.

This network enhancement has far-reaching and broad implications, resulting in a revolutionary improvement in enterprise businesss operations in all industries from retail to banking, manufacturing, logistics, BPOs and call centers.

And this new network is now ready to serve you.

Gi[illegible]io
CEO, Innove Communications Inc.

These days, most companies struggle to stay ahead of the so-called technology curve as the business environment becomes more complex and competitive.

That is why we are putting a lot of effort in equipping you with cutting-edge technology. We understand your needs and we have the answer for your needs. We recognize how important fast, secure, flexible, scalable, and reliable communications infrastructure is for your business. So we do our best to respond to your demands.

Today, we unveil our new multi-million dollar, multi-service network, GlobeQUEST ICON, a first in the Philippines. With this, we are introducing new services that enforce quality of service to business applications, enabling you to customize your networks to make operations more efficient.

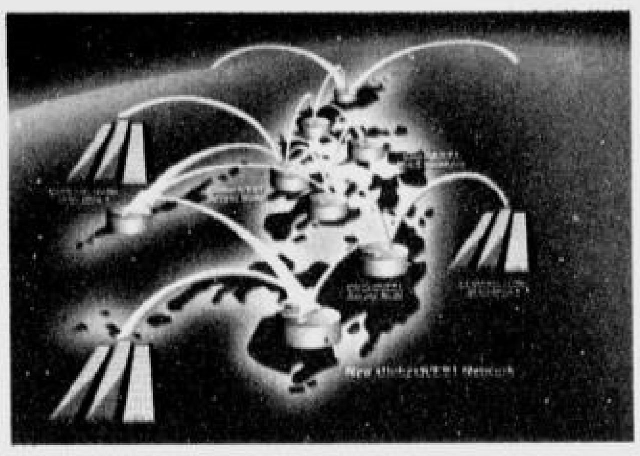
First, we have designed three levels of services based on our understanding of customer needs. You will definitely find a perfect fit to your business requirements and ensure you get value for money.

Second, we can now offer you our VPLS or virtual private LAN service, another milestone in Philippine IT services. This enables business offices to extend the experience of being in a local area network across distances to their remote branches, tapping the same Ethernet interface users are familiar with.

It also enables fixed-mobile convergence as it uses IP and MPLS at its core to provide a best-of-breed solution for integrating voice, video and data that will guarantee security and flexibility for your offices and mobile workforce. Gone are the days when you have to assume all the headaches associated with handling the growing requirements of your business. Today, you can leave those headaches to us.

These are only some of the high performance services that GlobeQUEST ICON can offer. In the near future, you can expect us to introduce more data services and features to meet your sophisticated needs.

Jesus B. Romero
Head, Enterprise Business Group



Businesses today face exciting yet challenging times. To remain competitive and more productive, companies are decentralizing their headquarters in favor of branch offices and mobile workers. To meet the growing need that this trend creates, bandwidth-hungry, real-time applications like voice over IP (VoIP), Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) applications, and video streaming are emerging. These new, powerful communications services have become the competitive edge that allows enterprises to enhance their customer service. And at the center of these new services is a robust telecommunications network, now a critical part of a thriving business.

However, heightened competition dictates that operations also remain cost-effective, hence the need for a converged voice and data network. As networks continue to grow and become more pervasive, there is a desire to minimize complexity. Instead of having three separate networks to work with, voice, data and the Internet have been merged into one common infrastructure.

At the same time, while enterprises have to be forward-looking, they also require a network that can support their existing applications and allow them to migrate seamlessly in the future.

Innove Communications, Inc. saw these growing customer needs and undertook a major upgrade that would not only meet today's business demands but tomorrow's challenges as well. The result is the new multi-million dollar GlobeQUEST network that uses MPLS (Multi-Protocol Label Switching) and IP (Internet Protocol) at its core. MPLS combines the speed and performance of packet-switched networks with the intelligence of circuit-switched networks (such as ATM) to provide a best-of-breed solution for integrating voice, video and data.

GlobeQUEST ICON (IP-Converged Optical Network) promises to deliver more innovations to customers to give them greater control, security, and reliability as well as help them reduce operating costs. Customers using them will have a significant edge in the marketplace as they differentiate themselves from their computitors.

The move to establish a new network was the logical conclusion of two main business imperatives: First, the need to reduce the cost of service delivery and maintenance. This would then result in savings which could then be passed on to customers. Second, was the need to respond to the increasing demand for greater quality of service, flexible network solutions better network performance and higher bandwidth capacity.

Network Innovations

Network innovation is essential for every ICT service provider to ensure high customer satisfaction. Customers today seek new ideas, better implementation and cutting-edge technology in their connectivity. This is what GlobeQUEST ICON brings, enabling Innove to deliver more exciting solutions in the future.

One of these network innovations is GlobeQUEST IP-VPN with QoS (Quality of Service) which offers three classes of service quality to its IP-VPN customers. This assures them of reliable connectivity, low latency, minimum packet loss and minimum jitter.

Another important innovation is the Virtual Private LAN Service (VPLS), a multipoint transparent LAN service. It uses familiar Ethernet interfaces to connect customer sites to the service as VPLS essentially links sites together as if they were on one local area network. MPLS technology allows for the transportation of data in the most efficient manner through a mesh resulting to any-to-any connectivity over secure tunnels.

In VPLS, the remote users get the same "look and feel" and experience of a LAN connection. Unlike the IP-VPN service, the customer does not need to coordinate with GlobeQUEST on IP addresses and routing to use the service. Once the Ethernet port at the customer site is up, users are immediately connected to the rest of the network and have full control over their IP addressing and routing.

Also, VPLS can carry protocols other than IP over the network, unlike the IP-VPN where all customer traffic must be IP. This allows remote users to access legacy applications that do not use IP as its communications protocol.

Benefits of GlobeQUEST ICON

Any-to-Any Connectivity

An MPLS-based VPN creates a fully-meshed wide area network for the customer. This relieves the customer from managing many point-to-point direct connections to remotes sites, which is the case in meshed frame relay and ATM networks.

Quality of Service (QoS) Support

GlobeQUEST ICON can provide differentiated levels of quality of service (QoS) to different traffic types. This is vital in ensuring low latency and minimum jitter for time-sensitive user traffic, like voice over IP (VoIP) and other mission-critical applications that customers use.

Layer 2 Services

Layer 2 services or Virtual Private LAN Service (VPLS) will enable enterprises to essentially create a virtual local area network across multiple office locations using familiar Ethernet interfaces. This gives the same "look and feel" of a LAN environment in a wide area network.

Service Interworking

The network is capable of integrating multiple types of access technologies (Ethernet, Frame Relay, DSL and wireless) into a single virtual private network.

Scalability

With Gigabit Ethernet connections at the core, the network is designed for greater scalability and manageability to address the ever-growing demands of enterprises and efficiently deliver traffic across their networks.

Reliability

Designed and built with redundant and diverse facilities, it ensures resiliency and faster intelligent routing enabled by MPLS, through the Fast Reroute (FRR) feature over a meshed network.

Security

As it inherently supports network-based virual private networks (VPNs) customers no longer need to purchase CPE-based VPN equipment to secure their network transmission.

Single Network Management

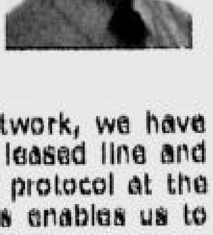
GlobeQUEST can manage and monitor the customer's network down to the point of access of the customer's equipment all the way into the core of the network using a single network management system. This translates to faster service provisioning and troubleshooting.

Reduced Total Cost of Ownership

With all the features of the network, GlobeQUEST can customize network solutions that optimize performance and potentially reduce the customer's cost of implementation and administration.

Partnering with GlobeQUEST

PVB's relationship with GlobeQUEST started six years ago when we upgraded from the traditional leased lines to GlobeQUEST's domestic frame relay service.



This time, as the demand for fast, reliable and accurate information becomes a must for businesses to survive in a global environment, we again turn to GlobeQUEST for our connectivity requirements.

Over the years, we have chosen GlobeQUEST to be the primary supplier of telecom services because of its versatile network architecture. And now, with GlobeQUEST's new generation MPLS network, we have migrated our remote connectivity from traditional leased line and frame relay private networks to the latest IP-VPN protocol at the least possible time and lower operating cost. This enables us to have faster, more secure, and more efficient customer transactions. We also need not worry about network expansion as this can be easily deployed by just connecting to the branch office to the nearest GlobeQUEST MPLS node without having to think about compatibility of equipment or networks.

We currently depend on GlobeQUEST for most of PVB's telecommunication services, linking the local head office to our branches nationwide.

We are pleased that through these years, GlobeQUEST has given its unwavering support for our business growth, thereby, ensuring our competitiveness in the banking industry. With GlobeQUEST's MPLS network, we are confident that it can continue to provide us with innovative banking solutions to stay ahead of competition.

Edgardo S. Dajao
Vice President for IT
Philippine Veterans Bank

innove

Palace ordered ₱3-B cut from victims' fund – Etta

By Philip C. Tubeza

IT WAS MALACAÑANG THAT ORdered the P3-billion cut in the compensation for human rights victims of martial law, according to a party-list representative.

Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann "Etta" Rosales said the Palace ordered the House leadership to reduce the amount from P11 billion to P8 billion in House Bill No. 3315.

"It was a directive from Malacañang to the House leadership. It was that categorical," she said.

Rosales, the chair of the human rights committee, said she had to comply or the bill would not have passed.

The House passed the bill on third and final reading on Wednesday night. The bill originally provided for $200 million to be given as compensation to the rights abuse victims. The House leadership, however, insisted that the amount be stated in pesos and fixed at P8 billion.

Rosales earlier said the amount could be increased at the bicameral conference committee, but Sen. Joker Arroyo said it cannot be done as the bill was an appropriation measure and any change would have to be made at the House.

But Rosales was hopeful that the rights abuse victims could end up with a bigger sum as the P8 billion "had already earned interest."

"They set aside the P8 billion as early as the 12th Congress and when I objected then, the House leadership told me not to worry since it would earn interest," she said.

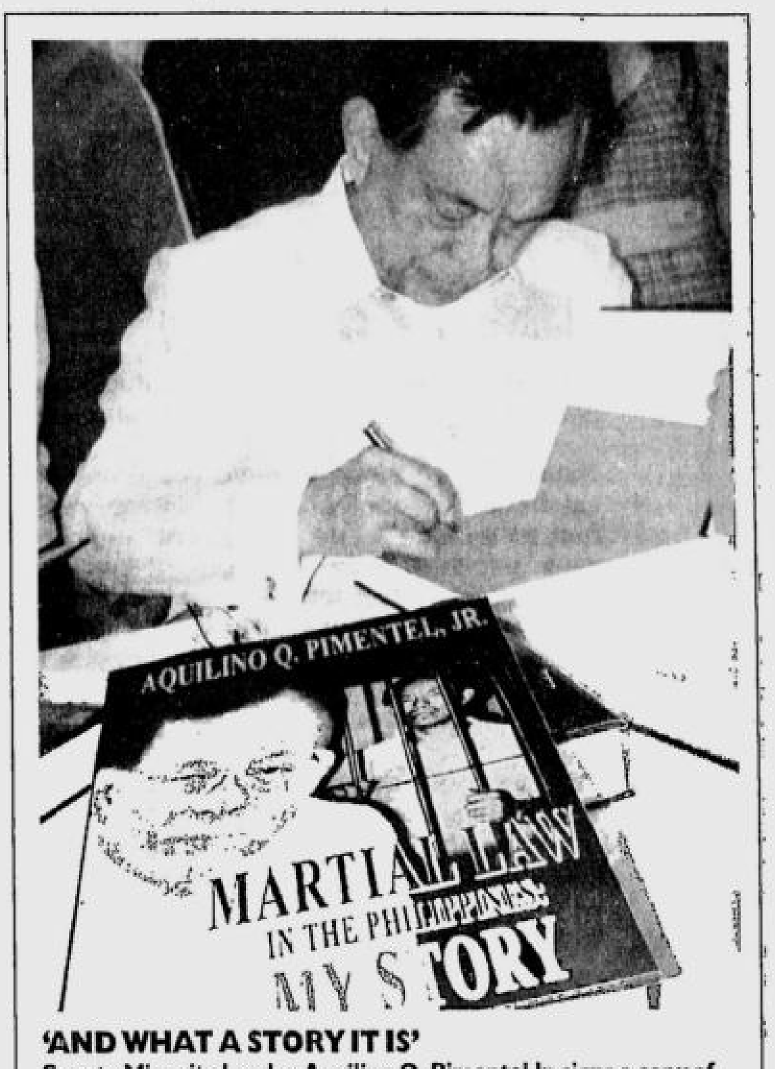
Rosales said despite the approval of the compensation bill, the human rights victims would continue to oppose any deal with the family of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

"This is the first time that the state, through legislation, recognizes the violation of human rights committed by Marcos against the Filipino people. There has never been any piece of legislation indicting the Marcoses," she said.

"Therefore, in conformity with the spirit of the law, the claimants will definitely oppose any effort to compromise with the Marcoses that would exonerate them from criminal liability," she said.

Rosales said the compensation bill was not about money but justice.

"Of course compensation is a way of getting justice, but we cannot quantify what the victims suffered. Even if it were P10 billion, it would not be enough for the lives lost," she said.



'AND WHAT A STORY IT IS'
Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr. signs a copy of his book, "Martial Law in the Philippines: My Story," which was launched Wednesday at the Manila Hotel. In the 562-page book written over two years, Pimentel recounts the dramatic events behind the people's struggle to be rid of the authoritarian rule of strongman Ferdinand Marcos, and his role in it. RODEL ROTONI

Leftists set 'outrage' march

SOME 5,000 LEFTIST ACTIVISTS will march to Mendiola today to denounce the "death sentence" allegedly imposed on militants by state security forces.

"Our ranks are being decimated so this will be an indignation rally. We will show our outrage. Our messages should reach Malacañang," said Carl Ala, Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas information officer.

Farmers and fishermen from Luzon will lead today's protest demonstration, to signify 18th anniversary celebration of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program this week.

Ala warned intelligence agents to stay away from the crowd.

"People are very much hot-tempered these days," he said.

Police Director Vidal Querol said the demonstrators should get a rally permit.

"Those who have applied for a rally permit should give the police copy of it so there is no confusion," he said.

Otherwise, the police and protesters may have to face each other "in a very confrontational way," Querol said.

Ala said the protesters had applied for a rally permit two weeks ago, but it had not been acted on.

The law on public assembly states that if a local chief executive fails to act on a permit application within two working days, the permit is deemed granted.

Militants will also highlight at the rally the Arroyo administration's allegedly dismal human rights record as President Macapagal-Arroyo prepares for an official trip to Europe in the next few weeks.

In a statement, the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) said it was ironic that while the death penalty has been abolished, its members remain targets of extra-judicial killings.

"The Arroyo regime cannot claim to be pro-life if these killings continue," said Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes Jr.

"The removal of the death penalty does not mitigate or cover up Arroyo's accountability on the issue of continuing extra-judicial killings, abductions and torture. Even the international community will take note of this," he said.

He said the issue would "hound" the President when she visits Spain and the Vatican this month.

Today's protest action will also call on government to impose harsher sanctions on security officers or agents involved in abductions and torture, Bayan said.

Besides Bayan, KMP and Pamalakaya, the party-list groups Bayan Muna, Anakpawis and Gabriela, which have six representatives in Congress, will join the rally. *Luige A. del Puerto*

Gov't forces deny slay try behind tight security

THIS YEAR'S INDEPENDENCE DAY rites will be marked by tightened security, but military and police officials are playing down reports that a possible assassination attempt may be behind the heightened watch.

In a joint command conference held in Camp Aguinaldo yesterday, the Armed Forces National Capital Region Command (NCRCom) and the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) announced that 6,000 policemen had been ordered to patrol Metro Manila on June 12, with another 300 soldiers placed on stand by, ready to be mobilized for any security emergency.

The head of the Presidential Security Group (PSG) attended the command conference. It was the first time in recent years that a PSG chief attended a security conference for Freedom Day preparations.

Officials denied they were defending against a possible communist assassination plot against President Macapagal-Arroyo and members of her Cabinet. *Dona Pazzibugan*

Peace talks with Reds futile, says security chief

PEACE TALKS WITH THE COMmunist-led National Democratic Front were a futile and useless exercise because of the continued activities of armed communist insurgents, according to National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales.

It is useless to negotiate peace with an organization that refuses to renounce violence as a tool to gain power or initiate change, he said.

"How do you talk peace with a group that has two faces, one that pursues and fights for its ideology above and underground?" Gonzales said in a statement.

"It would be foolhardy for government to discuss peace with communist leaders who have mastered the art of deceit," he said.

Gonzales said peace will never be achieved until the NDF and the Communist Party of the Philippines renounce violence and disband their armed wing, the New People's Army.

He said past negotiations failed because the NDF-CPP refused to stop the NPA from attacking military and police targets even while talks were going on.

"There was no sincerity or motivation. It was bound to collapse," said Gonzales, who also chairs the Partido Demokratiko Sosyalista ng Pilipinas (PDSP).

He said Jose Ma. Sison, the CPP founding chair and chief political consultant of the NDF, has spoken of a "sword"—the NPA—to strike blows against the enemy, and a "shield"—the front organizations of the NDF—to parry the attacks of the enemy.

"This way, the communists enjoy the best of both worlds. They are allowed to have their cake and eat it too," Gonzales said.

The government and the NDF, the political arm of the CPP, have been conducting negotiations with the help of the Norwegian government in an attempt to end the 38-year-old communist insurgency.

Talks have been stalled for a year after the communists insisted that the government use its influence with the United States and the European Union to get the communist-led organizations removed from the US' and EU's lists of international terrorist organizations.

Last year, the communists announced they were suspending talks and just wait for the next government that would replace President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Sison said the Arroyo government was using the terrorist listing as a license to silence, arrest and kill those in the opposition, particularly leftist and progressive leaders. *Blanche S. Rivera*

BI and MECO
M.O.A. SIGNING
29 2006

REACQUIRING CITIZENSHIP MADE EASY
Former Filipino citizens in Taiwan may now reacquire Philippine citizenship without having to go to Manila, with the signing by Immigration Commissioner Alipio Fernandez (second from left) and Manila Economic and Cultural Office in Taipei managing director and resident representative Antonio I. Basilio (third from left) of a memorandum of agreement for the purpose. At left is Jose L. Cabochan, Bureau of Immigration associate commissioner (left), and Ma. Isabel O. Golamco, Meco director and chief finance officer.

Korean fugitive nabbed at Naia

IMMIGRATION AGENTS HAVE arrested a South Korean national living in the Philippines the past three years for allegedly swindling a compatriot of $180,000.

The suspect, identified as 52-year-old Kim Yun Soo, was nabbed at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport after he was off-loaded from a Thai Airways flight to Bangkok last week.

Kim was removed from the flight on Saturday after he was placed on the Bureau of Immigration watch list, according to Immigration Commissioner Alipio Fernandez Jr.

Fernandez said in a statement the South Korean Embassy had sought Kim's arrest after it learned he was in the country.

BI intelligence chief Faizal Hussin said Kim was wanted in Seoul for allegedly defrauding a compatriot of $180,000 in 2002.

The Seoul Central District Court issued a warrant of arrest for Kim in August 2005 charging him with fraud. *Leila B. Salaverria*

UP med studes say tuition hike violates CHEd policy

By Alcuin Papa

STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines College of Medicine are protesting the increased tuition slapped on incoming freshmen, claiming it was a violation of Commission on Higher Education policy capping tuition hikes at the 7.6 percent inflation rate.

Alvin Cenina, the chair of the college's student council, said tuition for freshman medical students was increased 74 percent, from P11,529 to P20,045.

According to Cenina, the council tried to open a dialogue with the UP Board of Regents after the increase was approved last April, but the board was intent on implementing the tuition hike and voted in May to impose it on freshmen students only.

"They said that the last tuition increase was back in 1992 so there has been inflation and the high cost of education. But the council is firm in its stand that we oppose the increase," Cenina said.

The Student Council has called for a delay in the implementation of the tuition hike until a review of UP's Socialized Tuition Fee Assistance Program (STFAP) is finished.

The program ranks students according to income, charging students in the higher brackets full tuition and giving financial assistance to students from the lower brackets.

But it was "difficult now for students to get into the lower brackets," said Cenina.

Cenina argued that besides the freshman tuition hike going beyond the cap set by CHEd, it also went against earlier pronouncements of CHEd officials that tuition would not be increased in state universities and colleges.

But he himself noted that the state university was an autonomous system and independent of CHEd, though its chair, Carlito Puno, sits on the UP Board of Regents.

Cenina said that because of the rate hike, the council was reviving a scholarship grant program for deserving students. It would also set up an enrollment fund for needy students.

The UP College of Manila University Student Council also protested the tuition hike and warned of an impending UP system-wide increase.

"We see a pattern in the manner by which the tuition increase in the College of Medicine was implemented. This scheme was also done in raising the library fees systemwide from P400 to P800 for undergraduate students and from P800 to P1,200 for graduate students," a statement from the council said.

"It is the most convenient way of raising tuition and other fees, as it divides the opposition by students and would be bereft of student consultations, even with concerned student councils and representatives. As a result, the USC has every reason to believe and fear that the impending UP system-wide tuition increase would carry the same scheme," it said.

Corrections

IN THE JUNE 8 ISSUE, a story on Page A2—"Palace on budget: All or nothing"—misstated in the third paragraph the amount of the national budget submitted by Malacañang and approved by the House of Representatives. The 2006 national budget endorsed by Malacañang and the House amounted to P1.053 trillion—not billion.

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, a Metro story on Page A18—"Suspect in Naia killing mum about his motive"—attributed the statement—"I have no comment regarding the issue"—to the wrong person. The statement was made by the suspected killer, Cenon Tenorio—not Eduardo Tiotioen, the Ninoy Aquino International Airport action officer who was killed.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Lorna Kalaw Tirol, readers' advocate, e-mail address: readersadvocate@inquirer.com. ph or fax Nos. 897-47-93/94, Attn: Readers Advocate. Her phone number is 897-8808 Local 342.

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PRESENTS

8TH International Food • Beverage Manufacturing • Technologies Exposition 2006
(F&B ManuTech)

SEMINAR SCHEDULE
SEMINAR ROOM A (FREE ADMISSION)

JUNE 21, 2006	
1:00 - 3:00 pm	Best Energy Management Practices for Steam Systems, Spirax Sarco Phils.
3:30 - 5:30 pm	CO2 Refrigerant for Industrial Refrigeration Seminar Engr. Cesar Luis Lim
JUNE 22, 2006	
10:00 am - 12:00 nn	Industrial Refrigeration Seminar with Emphasis on Liquid Overfeed System, Engr. Cesar Luis Lim
12:30 - 2:30 pm	Savings Using Variable Frequency Drives, Jupp & Company
3:00 - 6:00 pm	Thermal Energy Storage Systems Seminar, Engr. Cesar Luis Lim
JUNE 23, 2006	
12:30 - 2:30 pm	Hydrocracked Lubricant Technology, Engr. Johnson Lim, Mechatronics
2:00 - 4:00 pm	Product Presentation, Schneider Electric Philippines, Inc.
4:00 - 6:00 pm	Product Presentation, Enertech Systems Industries, Inc.

ASHRAE SEMINAR ROOM B (A Special Seminar Series conducted in partnership with the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating & Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE)) (PhP500 PER TOPIC)

JUNE 21, 2006	
1:00 - 5:30 pm	Air-Conditioning Cooling Load, Engr. Rosendo C. Perez, Jr.
JUNE 22, 2006	
10:00 am - 12:00 nn	Air Conditioning Equipment Selection, Engr. [illegible], Concepcion Carrier
12:30 - 6:00 pm	Psychrometrics, Engr. Rosendo C. Perez, Jr.
JUNE 23, 2006	
10:00 - 12:00 nn	Pumps, AMIEN
12:30 - 5:00 pm	Fans & Blowers, Design and Construction, Engr. [illegible], Niagara Industrial Equipment Corp.

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For S Koreans, RP still nearest, cheapest place to learn English

ELLIE SUNG AND A FRIEND ARE QUEUING at a Manila shopping mall to catch the film "Mission Impossible 3" for the second time.

It's not that Sung is a Tom Cruise fan.

"I like to watch movies. It's for my English practice," she says.

Sung, 28, is one of thousands of South Korean students currently enrolled in about 800 language schools in the Philippines who are trying to get the edge that would translate into a good job, a higher salary or an acceptance letter from an elite university back home.

The importance placed on English in South Korea has driven high school students, graduates and unemployed degree holders to private language centers in the country or "hagwon" as they are known there.

Those looking for a more intensive experience move to countries where English is a main language.

English spoken here

The Philippines—a former US colony with a love of Hollywood movies, basketball and other icons of American culture—is a close and relatively cheap choice. It is five hours by plane from Seoul and there are Korean communities in many cities.

While the government puts the number of Koreans living in the Philippines at around 70,000, Dr. Hyun-Mo Park, president of the Filipino-Korean Cultural Foundation, sees it at closer to 100,000.

Last year, 524,000 Koreans visited for various reasons, including education, business and tourism. The Department of Tourism expects 600,000 Korean visitors this year, growing to 800,000 by 2008 and 1 million by 2010.

Big factor is cost

A big draw for South Korean students is cost.

In the Philippines, they need P40,000 to P60,000 ($755 to $1,135) per month for tuition, room, board and entertainment. And they get one-on-one lessons, something the same fee would not cover in Korea.

But standards vary widely.

Bernard Lee, an administrator at the Jungchul Academy in Manila, says unauthorized schools have "mushroomed" in the capital and other big cities since the English-language trend among Koreans started in the mid-1990s.

Lee estimates that only about one-quarter of the schools are registered with the government.

"In certain places, they're a dime a dozen," he says.

Teacher makes the difference

Philippine law encourages foreign-owned firms catering to the domestic market to take on Filipino partners or be directed in part by Filipinos, so many hagwons choose not to register as a way of remaining fully Korean-owned.

"As long as you pick a good teacher, that's the most important thing," says Julie Park, 25, who studies English with a private tutor.

For many South Koreans, immersion in the language is what they pay for with a ticket to Manila.

"Everyday I can practice English with almost everybody," Sung says.

Declining competency

But recent studies show the number of Filipinos who speak and understand English competently has fallen as the debt-laden government struggles to find money for education.

According to the European Chamber of Commerce, about 75 percent of the 400,000 college graduates each year have "substandard" English skills.

Shiena Jaco, a senior teacher at the Jabez International Education Center, says the findings are misleading because they do not reflect the lowering of English ability among Filipinos as much as the rising standards all over the world.

"In many places in the Philippines, people can actually speak English very well," Jaco said. "Many of our students end up staying longer than they plan to. It's the norm."

South Koreans are also less threatened by the insurgencies and crime that can deter tourists from visiting the Philippines, says former Trade Undersecretary Gregory Domingo.

"They have hundreds of guns pointed at their country every day, so warnings of things like kidnapping and extortion probably don't scare them as much," he said.

For Park of the Filipino-Korean Cultural Foundation, the local welcome also counts.

"In other countries, racial discrimination is a big problem for Koreans but in the Philippines not so much," Park says.

"Filipinos are very hospitable people."

Reuters

'LOOK, MA, NO NOISE'
A mother puts earplugs on her daughter before they board a US Navy helicopter in Jolo, Sulu, to fly out to the hospital ship USNS Mercy offshore where the girl will undergo a cleft palate operation. The Mercy is currently on a medical tour of the southern Philippines.
TROY MALCOLM/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

UK to put up own embassy building

THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN and Northern Ireland will build its own embassy building in the Philippines, a move that demonstrates the growing bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

"We have concluded an agreement to purchase land in McKinley Hill, Fort Bonifacio, and it has been approved by the Department of Foreign Affairs," said British Ambassador Peter Beckingham in a press statement yesterday.

The 1.2-ha site is located in Taguig City and was acquired from Megaworld Corp.

"The purchase underlines the growing British and Philippine relationship," Beckingham said.

"Our decision to invest several million pounds in a new embassy building is a strong signal of our commitment to developing an ever closer relationship with the Philippines," he added.

"Our investments are increasing, visa applications at record levels and tourism from the UK is on the increase. For all these reasons, and our close strategic interests, it makes sense for us to have our own purpose-built embassy," Beckingham said.

The British embassy is currently located in the Locsin Building on Ayala Avenue in Makati City.

Construction of the new embassy will begin in January next year and should be finished by 2009.

Nikko Dizon

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, June 9, 2006
9th Week in Ordinary Time
Ephrem

1st Reading: **2 Tim 3:10-17**
Gospel: **Mark 12:35-37**

As Jesus was teaching in the Temple, he said, "The teachers of the Law say that the Messiah is the son of David. How can that be? For David himself, inspired by the Holy Spirit declared: The Lord said to my Lord: sit at my right until I put your enemies under your feet. If David himself calls him Lord, in what way can he be his son?" Many people came to Jesus and listened to him gladly.

Commentary

We learn how to live by watching and imitating those who obey the Word of God and part of that learning is to know that there will be suffering, hardships and even persecution if we are faithful. All that is needed is found in the Scriptures: use it for teaching, reproof, correction, training in holiness, faithfulness and wisdom. We read the Scriptures daily, food for our souls and minds, the foundation of our lives and conversions, and learn more and more what it means to call Jesus: "Lord."

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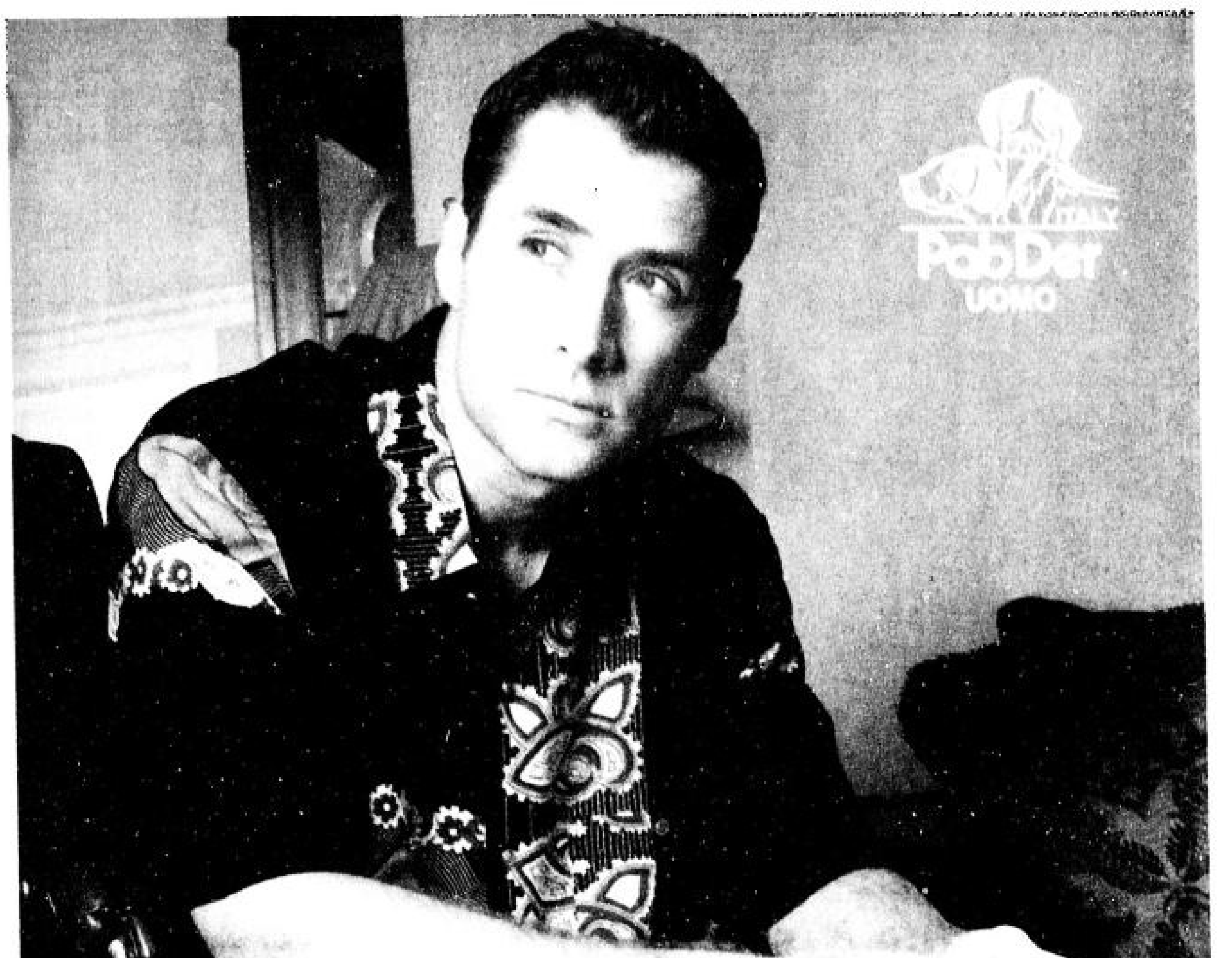
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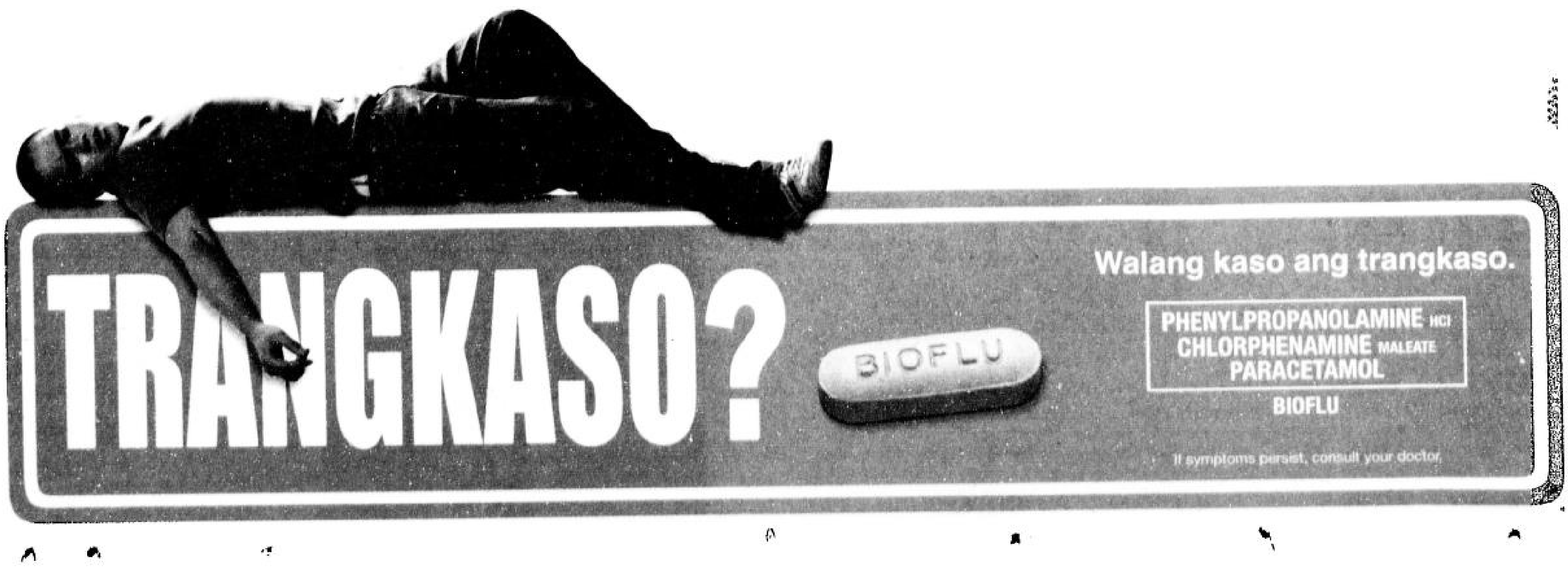

‘Absurd,’ PSG denies part in Erap 5 affair

From page A1

Wednesday that he was checking information that two PSG men were part of the arresting team.

Biazon’s committee on defense is looking into the abduction and alleged torture of the Estrada supporters.

“It is absurd and untrue and we really don’t know what was the basis of this publication, but we believe we don’t deserve such kind of publication,” Delfin said at a press conference in Malacañang.

The five men, including Virgilio Eustaquio, chair of the pro-Estrada Union of the Masses for Democracy and Justice, yesterday filed multiple criminal charges in the Office of the Ombudsman against Intelligence Service of the AFP chief Commodore Leonardo Calderon Jr. and other military and police officials.

Eustaquio, Ruben Dionisio, Jim Cabauatan, Dennis Ebona and PO3 Jose Curameng charged Calderon et al. with arbitrary detention, unlawful arrest, maltreatment of prisoners, grave threat, incriminatory machinations and robbery with violence against or intimidation of persons.

Dionisio, 60, who claimed to have been severely tortured while in detention, also filed charges of frustrated murder.

Calderon’s coaccused are Lt. Col. Henry Robinson Jr., commander of the Isafp’s Military Intelligence Group 15 (MIG-15); Director Jesus Versoza of the Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP-CIDG); PO3 Fred Pimentel and PO1 Noel de Ramos, and 17 John and Jane Does.

THROWING THE BOOK AT THEIR TORMENTORS: The so-called Erap 5—Ruben Dionisio (seated), Jose Curameng, Jim Cabauatan, Dennis Ebona and Ver Eustaquio—swear to their testimonies before lawyer Julita Calderon as they file criminal charges against the CIDG and the Isafp at the Ombudsman office in Quezon City. RAFFY LERMA

100-percent sure

Bangit said there was no need for an investigation to be conducted because he was “certain 100 percent” that the PSG was not involved in the abduction.

“It’s unimaginable why there should be such a headline and whatever it is, whatever is the intention of this publication, it is my personal assessment that this is an incredible invention of a story...” he said at one point in the press conference.

Bangit later complained to the INQUIRER that no one had asked him to comment on the issue.

Asked by reporters whether he was planning to speak with Biazon, he said he did not want to do so because he had not heard what the latter said.

“I am just reacting to the [report] as published,” he said.

Bangit said he was in Zamboanga the other day and was not able to watch the Senate hearing that was aired live by the ANC News Channel.

Asked whether he would file a case against the INQUIRER, he said that he had no such plan and that he only wanted to clarify the matter.

“In fairness to the publisher, it was possible there was an interpretation somewhere in the information that came its way,” Bangit said.

He underscored the need to make a clarification, saying it was the “honor” of the PSG that was at stake. He said members of the PSG had been “affected” by the report.

“I always say in public that the PSG has remained and will remain professional, and never will I tolerate such participation should such an incident occur,” Bangit said.

Not the PSG

Even Col. Tristan Kison, chief of the AFP Public Information Office, also denied that PSG members were involved in the warrantless arrests.

“We have no report about the participation of the [PSG] in that arrest. The report that came to my office is that it [was] an operation conducted by the CIDG and the Isafp,” Kison told reporters yesterday.

“I don’t have any idea about his (Biazon’s) source, but as far as the AFP is concerned, the PSG [had] no participation in that arrest,” Kison said.

It was the first time the military mentioned the CIDG as part of the operation. Kison had initially denied that the five men were in military custody.

Kison announced last week that eight members of the Isafp’s MIG-15 were to undergo pretrial investigation preparatory to court-martial for “inflicting injury” on the five Estrada supporters.

Yesterday, he said the military leadership was distancing itself from the Isafp agents involved in the torture.

Robbed and detained

“We condemn those acts,” said Kison, a former Isafp official. “We respect human rights and international humanitarian law, and with that as a premise, we will not resort to those actions. If at all it happened, it was not sanctioned by the AFP leadership.”

In their complaint, the five Estrada supporters reiterated their earlier accounts of how they were seized by armed men in plain clothes from Eustaquio’s house in Quezon City.

They said they were robbed and held in an undisclosed place until May 24, when they were taken to the Department of Justice for inquest.

Dionisio also recounted how he was tortured by his abductors.

At the Wednesday Senate hearing, PNP-CIDG legal officer Virgilio Pablico identified two of the arresting officers as Pimentel and De Ramos, but said the Isafp did not provide the names of its operatives in the arresting team.

Asked yesterday for comment, PNP spokesperson Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao said: “The CIDG is prepared to answer the charges as it maintains that [its actions] were well within legal parameters.”

Pagdilao also said the policemen included in the charge sheet would be made available for investigation.

He added: “The CIDG will answer [the charges]. If it does not, the Ombudsman will use only the evidence [presented by the Estrada supporters in evaluating the case].”

‘Desperate act’

In a separate briefing, Michael Defensor, President Macapagal-Arroyo’s chief of staff, accused the opposition of engaging in the “desperate act” of linking the PSG to the arrest and alleged torture of the Estrada supporters.

He said the opposition was doing so without any evidence, and in order to link the President to the issue.

Defensor called on the people to be patient and wait for the Isafp to disclose “some two weeks from now” the basis of its May 22 operation.

He said he was “confident” that the Isafp report would lay the controversy to rest.

“Sana naman po ay malinawagan ang ating kasamahan sa Senado at alisin ang pulitika sa kasong ito (We hope our colleagues in the Senate will be enlightened and will remove politics from this case),” Defensor said.

He said he had been briefed on the matter, “and personally, I am convinced there is a bigger issue beyond the arrests.” ***With reports from Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Luige A. del Puerto***

Ombudsman starts daily . . .

From page A1

approved on April 15, 2003, by Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Jr., and Commissioners Luzviminda Tancangco (now retired), Rufino Javier (ret.), Ressureccion Borra, Ralph Lantion (ret.), Mehol Sadain (ret.) and Florentino Tuason Jr.

While it conducts a preliminary investigation, the Office of the Ombudsman asked the tribunal to reconsider the resolution directing it to resolve the case by the end of the month.

“(W)ith the high court directive, what will prevent lower courts from directing us?” Gutierrez said, adding that the high court’s decision has no precedent since the antigraft body was established in 1989.

Independent body

She also cited numerous Supreme Court decisions affirming the independence of the Office of the Ombudsman “from outside pressure and improper influence.”

“Apparently then, any act which would tend to undermine the independence of the Office of the Ombudsman would defeat the very purpose of its creation as a constitutionally independent body from interference by the legislative, executive and judiciary,” she said in the motion for reconsideration she submitted to the Supreme Court in March.

Gutierrez said her office, as a constitutional body, could not be compelled either to render reports on the status, eventual outcome and completion of its investigation of the Comelec-Mega Pacific consortium controversy.

“As a tacit judicial recognition of the Ombudsman’s independence, the decision dated Jan. 13, 2004 in fact contained no ‘directive’ for the Ombudsman to render such reports,” she added.

No action by Marcelo

On Thursday, she nevertheless said that her office was investigating the Mega-Pacific deal because “the Ombudsman acts on its own ... not because of the Supreme Court directive.”

“We are continuing with the investigation because there was no action done by my predecessor,” she said during a dinner Thursday with INQUIRER editors and reporters.

She lamented that the case had not progressed for two-and-a-half years under her predecessor, Simeon Marcelo.

“We are rushing it. We meet every day to discuss it,” she said, adding that she had placed the case under her personal control and supervision.

She said the Supreme Court resolution should only be a reminder. “But to direct us, it’s another matter ... with or without it, we’ll do it,” Gutierrez said of her resolve to pursue in earnest the resolution of the Mega-Pacific case.

First Gentleman’s influence?

She denied having been influenced by the Palace or First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, who reportedly worked for her appointment, in resolving cases pending in the antigraft office.

“If there are anomalous contracts and they are involved, then we’ll go after them,” Gutierrez said, referring to the alleged irregularities committed by the First Gentleman and the lawyers of the Villaraza law office, the legal firm of the First Couple.

Asked whether the President’s husband, who was her classmate at the Ateneo Law School, had tried to influence her decision in cases, she said: “He cannot influence my decision ... there was no instance that he had followed up cases with me.”

On the perception that her closeness to the First Couple had affected her performance, Gutierrez snapped: “I don’t care, I know I can do the job.”

Explosive anger is a disease afflicting 16M Americans

From page A1

common than they realized, affecting up to 16 million Americans.

“People think it’s bad behavior and that you just need an attitude adjustment, but what they don’t know . . . is that there’s a biology and cognitive science to this,” said Dr. Emil Coccaro, chair of psychiatry at the University of Chicago’s medical school.

Road rage, temper outbursts that involve throwing or breaking objects and even spousal abuse can sometimes be attributed to the disorder, although not everyone who does those things is afflicted.

By definition, intermittent explosive disorder involves multiple outbursts that are way out of proportion to the situation. These angry outbursts often include threats or aggressive actions and property damage.

The disorder typically first appears in adolescence; in the study, the average age of onset was 14.

The study was based on a national face-to-face survey of 9,282 American adults who answered diagnostic questionnaires in 2001-03. It was funded by the National Institute of Mental Health.

16 M afflicted

About 5 percent to 7 percent of the nationally representative sample had had the disorder, which would equal up to 16 million Americans. That is higher than better-known mental illnesses, such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, Coccaro said.

The average number of lifetime attacks per person was 43, resulting in $1,359 in property damage per person. About 4 percent had suffered recent attacks.

The findings were released on Monday in the June issue of the Archives of General Psychiatry.

The findings show the little-studied disorder is much more common than previously thought, according to lead author Ronald Kessler, a health care policy professor at Harvard Medical School.

“It is news to a lot of people even those who are specialists in mental health services that such a large proportion of the population has these clinically significant anger attacks,” Kessler said.

Misunderstanding

For a couple of decades, intermittent explosive disorder (IED) has been included in the manual that psychiatrists use to diagnose mental illness, although with slightly different names and criteria.

That has contributed to misunderstanding and underappreciation of the disorder, said Coccaro, a study coauthor.

Coccaro said the disorder involved inadequate production or functioning of serotonin, a mood-regulating and behavior-inhibiting brain chemical.

Treatment with antidepressants, including those that target serotonin receptors in the brain, is often helpful, along with behavior therapy akin to anger management, according to Coccaro.

Most sufferers in the study had other emotional disorders or drug or alcohol problems and had gotten treatment for them, but only 28 percent had ever received treatment for anger.

“This is a well-designed, large-scale, face-to-face study with interesting and useful results,” said Dr. David Fassler, a psychiatry professor at the University of Vermont.

Traced to childhood

“The findings also confirm that for most people, the difficulties associated with the disorder begin during childhood or adolescence, and they often have a profound and ongoing impact on the person’s life,” Fassler said.

Jennifer Hartstein, a psychologist at Montefiore Medical Center in New York, said she had just diagnosed the disorder in a 16-year-old boy.

“In most situations, he is relatively affable, calm and very responsible,” Hartstein said. But in stressful situations at home, he “explodes and tears apart his room, throws things at other people” to the point that his parents have called the police.

According to Hartstein, the study is important because many people are not aware of the disorder. *AP*

Susan not going to rites for FPJ’s Nat’l Artist award

From page A1

as a National Artist awardee even if no one from his family accepted the award, a gold medallion.

Poe’s widow, movie actress Susan Roces, sent a letter yesterday to the National Commission on Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) saying the family had decided not to send anybody to today’s rites, according to CCP president Nestor Jardin.

Later, officials were also informed that the Poe family would not attend the two events at the CCP tonight—an exhibit and a tribute to Poe called “Parangal sa Pambansang Alagad ng Sine.”

‘Just for public display’

“The Poe family does not wish to diminish the value of this award by accepting it from Mrs. Arroyo. I cannot in all conscience go through the motions of the awarding ceremonies, just for public display,” Poe’s widow said in the letter to Jardin.

“The Gawad Pambansang Alagad ng Sining is too important and prestigious to be trivialized and I feel that I would be doing my husband and those who believe in him a grave dishonor,” Roces also said.

While Poe’s name would be mentioned as among the seven National Artist awardees, Jardin said the ceremony would “do away with reading the citation” for his award.

Aside from Poe, the other awardees are Bienvenido L. Lumbera (Literature), Ramon A. Obusan (Dance), Ramon Valera (Fashion/posthumous), Benedicto R. Cabrera (Painting), Ildefonso P. Santos Jr. (Architecture) and Abdulmari Asia Imao (Sculpture).

President Arroyo will confer the awards.

Jardin and Cecile Guidote-Alvarez, presidential adviser on culture, said it was unfortunate that the Poe controversy had overshadowed the fact that the award would also be given to six other persons, each deserving of recognition in their respective fields.

Alvarez said Obusan would speak for the group in today’s conferment rites.

“I think she (President Arroyo) is sad because this had been tainted with politics,” Presidential Chief of Staff Mike Defensor told reporters at a news briefing.

“She will not withdraw the award,” Defensor said. “She knows that Fernando Poe deserves the award; she recognizes the contribution of FPJ to the film industry.”

A day after the Palace announced that Poe was among the seven awardees, Roces informed the NCCA and CCP that her family would not be attending the Palace ceremony.

But she said she had asked noted film director and National Artist awardee Eddie Romero, a close family friend, to accept the award from the President in behalf of the family. But the Palace insisted that the recipient should be a relative of the awardee.

So what will happen to the award to FPJ?

Defensor said the award could be given to the family “at another time or at another occasion.”

He said in the past, those awardees who could not make it to the conferment rites in the Palace, ended up getting the award in another ceremony organized by the CCP.

Or the award could be left to the NCCA and CCP for “safekeeping,” according to Defensor.

A close friend of Roces, Marichu Vera Perez, said she understood why the former movie queen would not want to accept the award from President Arroyo, whom the late Poe had accused of cheating him in the May 2004 elections.

“You know Mrs. Arroyo, she will do anything to have a photo with Susan to show to the world that all is well between them,” Vera Perez told the INQUIRER.

Movie director Boots Plata and movie actor Rez Cortez, both friends of the Poe family, supported the decision of Ms Roces.

“There is so much focus on whether she would attend or not when in fact there are also other awardees,” Plata told the INQUIRER.

Peers, not GMA, voted for FPJ

But one of the jurors who voted for Poe as the awardee for film, independent filmmaker Kidlat Tahimik, said artists and Poe’s peers alone were responsible for making the late actor this year’s National Artist for Film, and not Ms Arroyo, Poe’s political rival.

“I’m not asking Susan Roces to come up personally on stage and receive the award. I would even understand the difficulty ... because the presidential campaign took its toll [on Poe’s family] ... Emotions *yan* (That’s an emotional response),” he told the INQUIRER.

“I am just [advising her to] enjoy the award, be proud and don’t let cheap talk take away the dignity and honor bestowed [upon Poe, whose career as actor, producer and director spanned decades].”

By “cheap talk,” Tahimik was referring to an accusation hurled in April, and again in May, by opposition leaders who claimed that Malacañang orchestrated the selection of Poe as a national artist to win the support of Roces and his friends.

The charges were ignited when the Palace announced Poe’s award in a statement released during Ms Arroyo’s Holy Week break. Hours later, officials retracted their own press release.

The officials finally released the list on May 24, still bearing Poe’s name.

But Palace officials further fueled the controversy by asserting that the rules required that an immediate family receive the award for Poe.

15th degree of consanguinity

“I can sincerely say I sensed no external influence on our proceedings. I had received no arm-twisting calls about the matter—although it is well known intense lobbying for these prestigious awards happens,” Tahimik said.

He said Roces could “get someone within the 15th degree of consanguinity” to accept Poe’s award from Ms Arroyo, if the government insisted on this rule.

Tahimik said he was drafting a letter to Roces. Part of the letter reads: “It is important for me that you feel good by understanding the selection process free of politics. We artists are proud to have honored your husband. We hope you can share that pride and the honor of Poe’s becoming a national artist. Please don’t let the ‘bolero’ politicians steal the thunder from the artists...

“What an insult to our committee!... Please allow this independent filmmaker to comment on the selection process. It’s up to you how the credibility of this humble artist compares with the rhetoric of that mob of hysterical ‘trapos,’” he wrote Roces.

Tahimik spent a career producing extremely low-budget yet internationally awarded films that reject “a Hollywood formula” common to mainstream Filipino cinema.

He is an advocate of today’s wave of digital filmmakers because it “freed” Philippine cinema’s “*sariling duwende* (personal imp) or [the filmmakers’] innate creative spirit that is originally Pinoy, which is not tied down to the Mother Lily (Regal Film’s matriarch Lily Monteverde) formula.”

Tahimik said this was the first time he joined a juror’s group to nominate a National Artist, so his insights were “fresh and apolitical.”

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US air strike kills Iraq's most wanted terrorist

From page A1

on Wednesday evening in a remote area in the volatile province of Diyala, 50 km northeast of Baghdad and just east of the provincial capital of Baqouba.

Loud applause broke out as al-Maliki, flanked by US Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad and Gen. George Casey, the top US commander in Iraq, told reporters at a news conference that "al-Zarqawi was eliminated."

The announcement came six days after the Jordanian-born terror leader issued an audiotape on the Internet, railing against Shiites in Iraq and saying militias are raping women and killing Sunnis and the community must fight back.

Al-Maliki said there was a failed attempt to kill al-Zarqawi in the past 10 days before the successful air strike. He said the air strike was the result of intelligence reports provided to Iraqi security forces by residents in the area and that US forces acted on the information.

Casey said the hunt for al-Zarqawi began in the area two weeks ago, and al-Zarqawi's body was identified by fingerprints and facial recognition.

Baqouba has in recent weeks seen a spike in sectarian violence, including the discovery of 17 severed heads in fruit boxes. It was also near the site of a sectarian atrocity last week when masked gunmen killed 21 Shiites, including a dozen students.

"Those who disrupt the course of life, like al-Zarqawi, will have a tragic end," al-Maliki said.

"Whenever there is a new al-Zarqawi, we will kill him," the prime minister said. "This is a message for all those who embrace violence, killing and destruction to stop and to (retreat) before it's too late. It is an open battle with all those who incite sectarianism."

Huge success

Khalilzad added "the death of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi is a huge success for Iraq and the international war on terror." He also gave a thumbs up and said it was a good day for America.

In Washington, the White House said US President George W. Bush was "clearly pleased" with the killing. For their part, British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Australian Prime Minister John Howard described al-Zarqawi's death as a big boost to counterterrorism forces in Iraq.

Brother's grief

Even so, there was grief in Zarqa, one of Jordan's poor industrial towns that al-Zarqawi called home and from which he derived his name.

"We expected that he would be martyred," Sayel al-Khalayleh, told The Associated Press in a low voice, signaling his grief over the death of his brother, whose real name is Ahmed Fadhil Nazzal al-Khalayleh.

"We hope that he will join other martyrs in heaven," he added.

Close to capture

In the past year, al-Zarqawi moved his campaign beyond Iraq's borders, claiming to have carried out a Nov. 9, 2005 triple suicide bombing against hotels in Amman that killed 60 people, as well as other attacks in Jordan and even a rocket attack from Lebanon into northern Israel.

US forces and their allies had come close to capturing al-Zarqawi several times. His closest brush may have come in late 2004.

Maj. Gen. Hussein Kamal, an Iraqi deputy interior minister, said security forces caught al-Zarqawi near the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah but then released him because they didn't realize who he was. *AP*

IN THE KNOW

Some terrorist attacks claimed by al-Zarqawi

MAJOR attacks, killings claimed by Jordanian terror suspect Abu Musab al-Zarqawi and his followers:

Dec. 27, 2005: Firing of a volley of rockets from southern Lebanon into Israel.

Nov. 9, 2005: Triple suicide bombing against hotels in Amman, Jordan, that killed 60 people.

Aug. 19, 2005: Rocket attack in the Jordanian port city of Aqaba that killed a Jordanian soldier. In the attack, three Katyusha rockets were fired, including one that landed in neighboring Israel—causing no casualties—and another that missed a US Navy ship docked in Aqaba's port.

May 7, 2005: Two explosives-laden cars plow into an American security company convoy in Baghdad, killing at least 22 people—including two Americans.

Feb. 28, 2005: A suicide car bomber strikes a crowd of police and Iraqi National Guard recruits in the southern city of Hillah, killing 125 people.

June 22, 2004: Kidnappers behead South Korean hostage Kim Sun-il; Al-Jazeera television says the killing was carried out by al-Zarqawi's group.

Dec. 19, 2004: Car bombs tear through a funeral procession in Najaf and the main bus station in nearby Karbala, killing at least 60 people in the Shiite Muslim holy cities.

Oct. 30, 2004: The body of hostage Shosei Koda, 24, of Japan, is found decapitated in Baghdad, his body wrapped in an American flag.

Sept. 16, 2004: British engineer Kenneth Bigley, and US engineers Jack Hensley and Eugene "Jack" Armstrong are kidnapped in Baghdad. By Oct. 10, 2004, all three men have been confirmed beheaded.

Sept. 14, 2004: A car bomb rips through a busy market near a Baghdad police headquarters where Iraqis are waiting to apply for jobs, killing 47.

Aug. 2, 1004: A video from followers of al-Zarqawi shows shooting death of hostage Murat Yuce of Turkey.

May 11, 2004: Kidnapped American businessman Nicholas Berg is beheaded while being videotaped, and the voice of the knife-wielder is identified as al-Zarqawi's.

Aug. 19, 2003: A truck bombing of UN headquarters in Baghdad kills 23, including top UN envoy Sergio Vieira de Mello.

Aug. 29, 2003: A car bomb in Najaf kills more than 85 people, including Ayatollah Mohammad Baqr al-Hakim, leader of the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq.

Oct. 28, 2002: Laurence Foley, a diplomat and administrator of US aid programs in Jordan, is killed. *AP*

It's back to 2005 budget as talks collapse

From page A1

Ms Arroyo has ruled out a special session during the break and is likely to reenact last year's budget of P907.56 billion.

While the government insists the 2006 budget must be passed without cuts to benefit the poor by spurring development, rolling over the 2005 budget would give Ms Arroyo more leeway over spending because of projects completed last year.

Asked if Malacañang was disappointed with a budget lower than the proposed outlay for this year, Defensor merely shrugged: "What can we do?"

Smaller budget

He said the government could realign last year's budget to some of the key items that it wants to bankroll under the 2006 budget.

"It's a smaller budget but I think we can make do with what we have," he said at a briefing.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye was also unconcerned about having a reenacted budget except for the limitations on the government's ability to spend for social services.

"We'll just have to stay within the limits of the previous year's budget," Bunye said in a separate briefing.

This includes the funds necessary to prepare for the 2007 elections, contrary to a warning by Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos that there would be no elections next year because of Congress' failure to approve the 2006 budget. *(See related story on Page A2.)*

Outgoing Senate President Franklin Drilon and his successor, Sen. Manuel "Manny" Villar Jr., blamed Malacañang for the budget impasse that ended unresolved after days of "backdoor negotiations."

Restart bicam

The Senate panel, however, would be taking steps to restart the stalled bicameral conference committee on the budget during the break.

After seeing no sign of a breakthrough in the bicameral talks, the senators decided to adjourn their session yesterday, a day earlier than the original schedule.

"The panel tried its best to finish the budget, but to no avail. So we agreed to adjourn the session today. We ended it today because even if we ended it tomorrow, there is still no bicam report," Drilon said at a joint briefing with Villar.

Earlier in the day, the outgoing Senate president said Malacañang, not the senators as claimed by congressmen, should be blamed for the stalemate.

"The hardline stance was taken by the President when she said that unless you restore everything I will veto it," Drilon said.

Villar, chair of the Senate panel who initiated a series of backdoor negotiations with his House counterpart Salceda after the talks bogged down Monday night, confirmed this.

To break the impasse, the senators proposed to realign the P26 billion slashed from the budget's programmed funds for education and health services, but the representatives stuck to the Palace line that all the cuts be restored, he said.

"We were agreeable to realigning the cuts, say for education, but we couldn't do anything when Malacañang declared it would veto all the cuts," Villar said.

Teammates: House, Palace

"You must remember that the House and Malacañang are teammates. Of course, Malacañang's hardline stance was crucial to our failure to pass the budget. In short, it threw a monkey wrench into the process," he said.

Senators and congressmen met for their second bicameral conference on Monday night, but abruptly adjourned after a heated discussion on the cuts made by the Senate. It never resumed.

The House approved a P1.040-trillion budget in early April, but pushed for the adoption of the Malacañang-proposed budget at the bicameral conference.

After days of plenary debates the Senate passed a leaner P1.027-trillion outlay on Thursday last week after slicing P26 billion in lump-sum appropriations from the programmed funds of the Malacañang-proposed P1.053-trillion budget.

Supplemental budget

As the reenacted budget loomed large, Villar said he would discuss with his House counterpart the possibility of crafting a supplemental budget for education and health services, including a subsidy for indigents under the Philippine Health Insurance Corp.

"I think some 7 million new members have to pay their premiums. So we will study the effects of a reenacted budget," he said.

Both chambers allocated P2.9 billion for members of PhilHealth.

Like the senators, Salceda expressed the hope that the long session break—from June 10 to July 23—could provide ample time for exploratory talks to break the impasse.

"There is a small chance we can squeak it in after the President's State of the Nation Address (Sona) on July 24 and before the 2007 General Appropriations Act is submitted one month after."

"If not, piecemeal supplemental budgets could serve as confidence-building exercises while restoring funding for PhilHealth as a start," he said.

Budget for 2008

Salceda said enacting the 2006 budget was improbable because the President was mandated to submit to Congress her proposed national budget for 2008 a month after the Sona.

He did not hide his displeasure over the failure of Congress to enact its "most important piece of legislation" for the year.

"With an unprecedented P129 billion in (proposed) new spending, 2006 represented the country's best chance to make irreversible" moves that could jump-start the moribund economy," he said.

"It's the biggest missed opportunity for poverty reduction in this decade. Instead, it would crystallize the contractionary impulse of recent tax measures. The poor are worse off without new social spending like P2.9 billion in health insurance affecting 36 million people." *With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Reuters*

'Nicole' weeps as witness tells how GIs dumped her

From page A1

proceedings" under the VFA meant proceedings started when the case was filed in court.

He rejected the private prosecutors' claim that the judicial proceedings began only on April 28, when the accused were arraigned.

Unendurable

Nicole, 22, who accused the four Americans of conspiring to rape her in a moving van at the Subic Bay Freeport, found Khonghun's narration of her ordeal simply too hard to endure.

The 51-year-old Olongapo-based contractor was among those who saw Nicole being unloaded by Americans from a Starex van at around 11:30 p.m. on Nov. 1, 2005, at the Alava Pier.

He was the first person on record to speak to Nicole minutes after the alleged rape, and was the first to testify to her first statements after the Americans allegedly left her at the pier.

"The taller American was holding her legs, while the shorter American was holding the upper part of the body, particularly the arm ... Then they put her down on the pavement," Khonghun said, testifying in fluent English.

He later identified the taller one as Silkwood and the shorter one as Smith, the soldier who said he had consensual sex with Nicole.

Liberty's end

This was part of Khonghun's account of what transpired on the night of Nov. 1:

Khonghun and seven others were at the seawall of the Alava Pier to watch American servicemen board the USS Essex at the end of "liberty," a furlough granted to US soldiers who had engaged in the RP-US war games "Talon Vision."

The businessman had driven his company in a van to the pier after dining at Pier 1, a restaurant roughly a kilometer away from where the ship was docked. He parked his van at a lot beside the Subic Telecom office, a short walk from the seawall.

Khonghun and his group were standing at the seawall, about 15 to 10 meters away from the parking lot, when they saw a dark-colored Starex van stop behind his van.

He saw an African-American, whom he later identified as Duplantis, walk out of the van a bit wobbly. The man walked to the curb and sat there.

Another man, later identified as Silkwood, alighted next.

Said Khonghun: "A bottle of beer was in his hand. He then emptied [the bottle and] and threw [it] on the pavement. He then returned to the van and I saw him holding both legs of a person.

"The other end [of the woman] was supported by another Caucasian," later identified as Smith.

Feet first

Asked to demonstrate, the witness said Smith carried the woman under her armpits, while Silkwood held her behind her legs near her ankles.

With her pants pulled down below her knees, the woman was carried out of the van feet first.

Nicole had barely recovered from her initial weeping when Khonghun was asked to identify the woman he saw being unloaded from the van.

The complainant mustered her strength to rise and identify herself.

When asked what happened next, Khonghun said the van drove away as soon as the Americans had unloaded the woman.

The servicemen then ran toward the ship, leaving the woman lying on the pavement.

"I saw her sitting around four feet away from the right side of the rear portion of [my] van, a little bit trying to reach her pants with both her hands," said Khonghun.

No mention of rape

In grilling Khonghun, defense lawyers wondered why Nicole made no mention of rape in encountering apparently the first person to find her after she had been dumped by her alleged abusers.

"She did not say that," the witness said in replying to Silkwood counsel Jose Justiniano, who had asked if he recalled Nicole saying anything then about a rape.

Another series of questions posed by Smith counsel Benjamin Formoso also made Khonghun declare that "she was not complaining" when he saw her.

Carpentier lawyer Francisco Rodrigo led an attack on Khonghun's credibility and motive for testifying, asking him why he made a sworn statement on what he supposedly saw "six and a half months" after the incident.

"Because nobody had asked me [until then]," the businessman said.

Khonghun was the fourth witness to be presented by the prosecution.

Tony Ramos, an agent of the US Naval Criminal Investigative Service, appeared in court yesterday to tell the court he could not testify on grounds of diplomatic immunity. *With a report from Volt Contreras*

Adult Aetas learn ABCs through 2-way radio

From page A1

haven for adults in the afternoon. The walls are adorned with bright drawings of animals and plants.

Modules on environmental conservation, livelihood, health, responsible parenthood and community life are discussed with parateachers assisting each class of readers and nonreaders. From these modules, the adults learn to read, write their names and do simple math.

"The learning of adult learners is heightened if they are able to relate to the topic of discussion, or if they find it relevant to their daily lives," said Jose Cruz III, director of UST's Office for Community Development.

'Too much technology'

The distance education project began in 1999 from a doctoral dissertation by UST's Evelyn Songco, also the program's first on-air teacher. From an initial class of 15 learners in Malasa, the number grew to 157 in five sitios.

When the INQUIRER interviewed Songco and Guya in 2001, the project then had two learning centers in Malasa and Mabilog, more than a half-hour's hike away. Quintana now broadcasts to three more communities—Sitios San Martin, Sta. Rosa and Haduan, all in Bamban.

A concrete structure has replaced the GI sheets and *sawali* walls that used to serve as Malasa's learning center. Similar structures have been erected in the other sitios.

Each sitio has a radio set running on car batteries, while a 120-foot repeater station is located in Malasa. The radio sets, including the one in UST's radio room, are licensed by the National Telecommunications Commission.

"There were sentiments against introducing too much technology to the Aeta," Cruz said, adding that he himself had second thoughts about the project.

Other misgivings involved the viability of holding classes on-air.

Seven years after the project was launched, Cruz insisted that the radio was not "too much technology" for the learners, saying it helped them communicate with one another.

"I usually use the radio to chat with my relatives from San Martin and Mabilog before classes begin," Sumawang sheepishly admitted, radio in hand.

Parateachers' dedication

With 10 classes and a new learning center in Haduan, Cruz emphasized that the project's success was due to the parateachers' dedication to duty, and not the on-air teacher's skills alone.

"The parateacher is the key to the learning of the adult learners," he said. "The parateacher facilitates, motivates and guides the students."

A parateacher need not be a professional teacher. In fact, Guya had only finished high school and a computer secretarial course before she was chosen by her community.

"What is important is that you know how to relate and understand people," she explained.

Guya, who is also a daycare teacher, said it was harder to teach adults than her young charges. But she and the other parateachers were keen on pointing out the learners' progress.

"They can now read and write their own names even if I'm not there to guide their hands," Vergel Sanchez of Sta. Rosa said in Filipino.

Plans are afoot to expand the program to Sitio Kalawakan in San Miguel, Bulacan, and to Gabaldon town and Palayan City in Nueva Ecija.

Quintana said she and her colleagues had received invitations for them to teach indigenous communities in Palawan.

Self-confidence

But more than teaching literacy, simple arithmetic and livelihood projects, the UST program gives both *kulot* and *unat* learners the chance to boost their self-confidence.

Parateacher Lina Sanchez's students used to be afraid to hold the radio, and would nudge each other whenever a question was raised. "Now they scramble to get to the radio first and can easily write whatever Ms Marielyn tells them to," she said.

Literacy and survival

Abby Abelardo, a UST field worker, said the Aeta people's need for education was not degree-based but for them to learn enough to survive. "The program is there to supplement their skills, given the lack of formal schooling," she said.

These adult learners may never get a college degree or climb the corporate ladder. But since learning his ABCs, Sumawang doesn't need to ask others if he's riding in the right jeepney to town.

"I once asked a man, 'Is this jeep going to Dapdap or to Capas?' He tricked me and made me ride a jeep bound for San Fernando, Pampanga. I realized that I was lost when I got there, so I was forced to go back to Bamban," Tirso related while clasping and unclasping his hands.

"That is why I wanted to learn to read. Now I don't get lost because I can read and recognize the signboards on the jeepney."

'We'll not be fooled'

Abelardo noted that with the on-air classes, the Aeta people learned to affirm their rights. "If they sell a sack of sweet potato, some lowlanders would only give them half a kilo of rice and two cans of sardines. They were not aware of the value of their labor then," she said.

Tirso used to accept whatever buyers offered him for his vegetables. "But they don't do that now. They know we will not be fooled again. They sometimes pay us in cash now. We now understand," he proudly said.

When asked how long the program will continue, Quintana said it would be implemented as long as there were illiterate Aeta adults wanting to be educated.

Sumawang wants the program to stay in Malasa a little longer. "I always pray that they will not stop teaching us. Now people can't say that just because we are *kulot*, we do not know how to write."

More ivory being smuggled into RP

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE IVORY TUSKS seized last year in the Philippines account for the biggest shipment of smuggled elephant tusks being investigated by the Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF), an international team monitoring the illegal trade of African wildlife all over the world.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources said the total 6,758 kilograms of tusks seized at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in September and the South Harbor in November last year were 200 kg more than the 6,500 kg confiscated in Singapore in 2002.

With a pair of tusks weighing around 30 kg, the total Philippine apprehensions meant that at least 225 elephants were killed for their tusks, DENR regional technical director Perfecta Hinojosa said yesterday.

"The Philippines so far has the biggest confiscation being investigated now by Lusaka (Task Force)," Hinojosa said in an interview at the national forum on coastal resource management at the Hotel Philippine Plaza yesterday.

She said data from the LATF showed that the major confiscations of elephant tusks were 6.5 tons in Singapore in 2002 and 3.3 tons in Shanghai, China in 2003.

Of the 6,758 kg seized last year, however, 6,000 kg are now missing due to an alleged lapse on the part of the Bureau of Customs, which had insisted on keeping the tusks despite DENR's repeated requests to turn these over to the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau.

On Tuesday, Customs and environment agents raided a religious store in Sta. Cruz, Manila, which the BOC identified as the destination of the tusks lost under the government's custody.

The authorities confiscated 94 images made from ivory, 35 tusks and 81 kilos of scrap from the molded tusks at the Our Lady of Manaoag religious store. They also seized a still undetermined number of tusks from the shop owner's house in Parañaque, but these may not account for the total 6,000 kg missing.

"It's an international embarrassment," an environment official, who asked not to be named, said of the missing tusks.

Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes said the seizure and disappearance of elephant tusks has been the subject of international attention, particularly from the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) based in Switzerland, and the LATF.

Reyes reminded the BOC in a letter that as a signatory to the CITES, the Philippines is duty bound to assist other member countries in enforcing CITES regulations, including those banning the trade of elephant tusks.

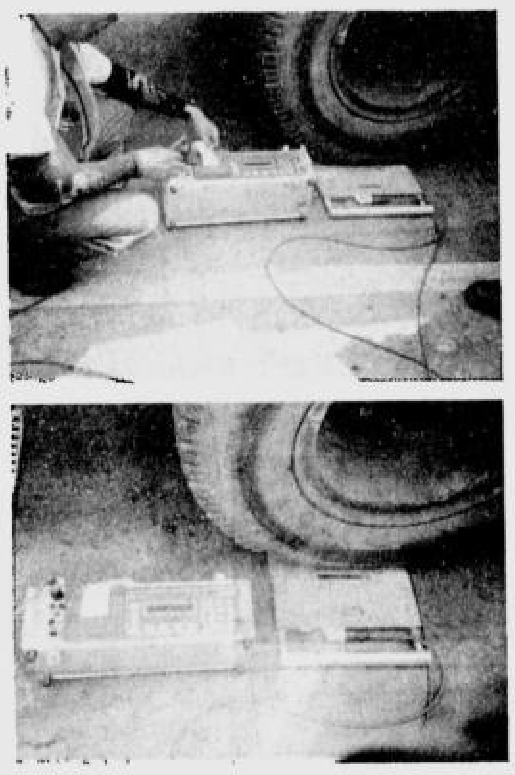
Elephant tusks are a part of wildlife and elephants are listed under Appendices I and II of CITES, an international agreement regulating the international trade of wild flora and fauna.

LATF agents from Africa arrived in Manila Sunday to assist the Philippine government in investigating how such a huge shipment of African elephant tusks found their way to the country.

The LATF is an African intergovernmental law enforcement organization based in Nairobi, Kenya, which facilitates cooperative enforcement operations among African countries to eliminate illegal wildlife trade.

The illegal trade in wildlife is the third biggest illegal trade problem in the world following drugs and weapons, Hinojosa said.

The Philippines is being monitored as a possible new transshipment point of smuggled ivory tusks after authorities made apprehensions in Hong Kong and Vietnam, the DENR said.



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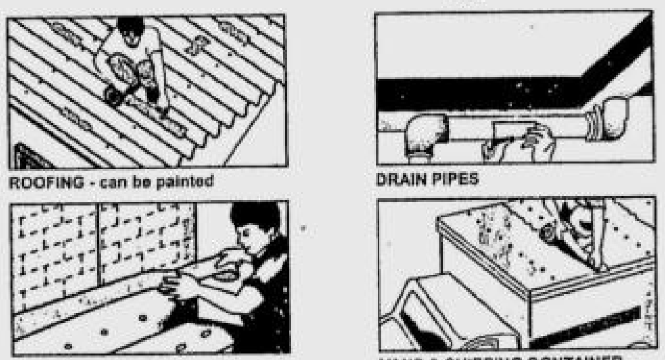

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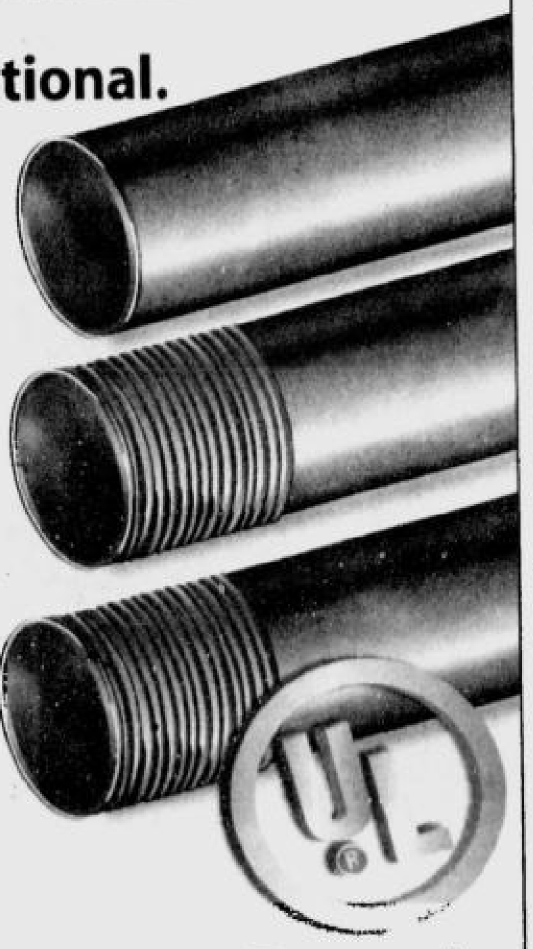

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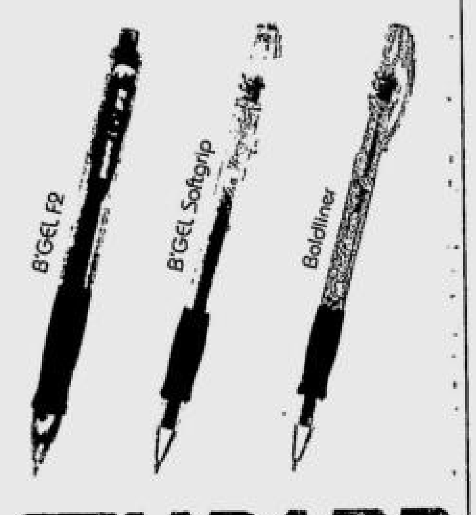

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MEMBERS of Greenpeace protest the pollution of the waters around Rapu-Rapu in Albay and reveal that its residents stand to make only P2 a day in the seven years Lafayette will be operating its mining project on the island, at a press conference yesterday in Quezon City.
JOAN BONDOC

Mining to give Rapu-Rapu folk P2/day – Greenpeace

By Blanche S. Rivera

EACH RAPU-RAPU RESIDENT STANDS TO gain only P2 per day for the seven-year duration of the Lafayette Phil. mining project contrary to the Australian company's claim that mining will enrich the island's 30,000 people, according to a socioeconomic report commissioned by the Greenpeace environment group.

The study, titled "Fool's Gold," showed that the economic benefit to be expected from the mining operations in the 5,000-ha island would amount to only P6,092 for each villager for seven years.

'The financial benefit for Rapu-Rapu itself from Lafayette's operation was only P176.6 million representing the local government share of revenues, labor income and social development fund.

The study was conducted from April to May by RiskAsia Consulting.

"This is a losing proposition for the province," Greenpeace campaigns director Von Hernandez told a press conference yesterday.

He said the national government and the Rapu-Rapu local government were selling out the island's natural resources in exchange for a measly P2 benefit to the people.

"Normally in the Philippines, mining companies just walk away after mining operations... The environmental guaranty fund is not commensurate to the environmental damage. We're making sacrificial zones with this," Hernandez said.

Based on interviews with fisherfolk from the surrounding municipalities of Bacon, Prieto-Diaz and Gubat, the province of Sorsogon suffers monthly losses of about P370 million from the fish scare caused by the twin Lafayette mine spills in October 2005.

The computation was, however, based on a high production volume, with optimum participation of all fishermen in the area. The study also noted that the low fish stock was also caused by illegal fishing practices.

"The biggest problem for the Rapu-Rapu LGU is its weak financial capacity and its high dependence on the IRA," the study said.

Actual revenues generated by the local government last year amounted to only P2.5 million from fishery rental fees, business tax, community tax, real property tax, permit fees and other incomes.

Trial on for DPWH execs

THE SANDIGANbayan has cleared the way for the resumption of the trial of eight DPWH officials accused of graft and corruption in the construction of a P169.7-million river dike in Pampanga that was allegedly faulty and broke under the onslaught of lahar triggered by relatively light rain.

In a nine-page resolution released Tuesday, the court said it had decided to throw out separate motions by the accused asking that the charges against them be dismissed for lack of evidence.

"Based on the testimonies and documents submitted, this court is satisfied that the prosecution has shown that there exists a prima facie case against the accused," said the resolution, written by Presiding Justice Teresita Leonardo-de Castro.

The defendants include Bienvenido Leuterio, director of the Department of Public Works and Highway's Bureau of Design; the assistant director, Gregorio Carillo; the hydraulics division chief Sofia Santiago; project manager Pedro Tercino; project evaluation officer Gilberto Reyes; design section chief Ramon Velasquez; and engineers Raymundo Adawag and Darius de Guzman. *Nelson F. Flores*

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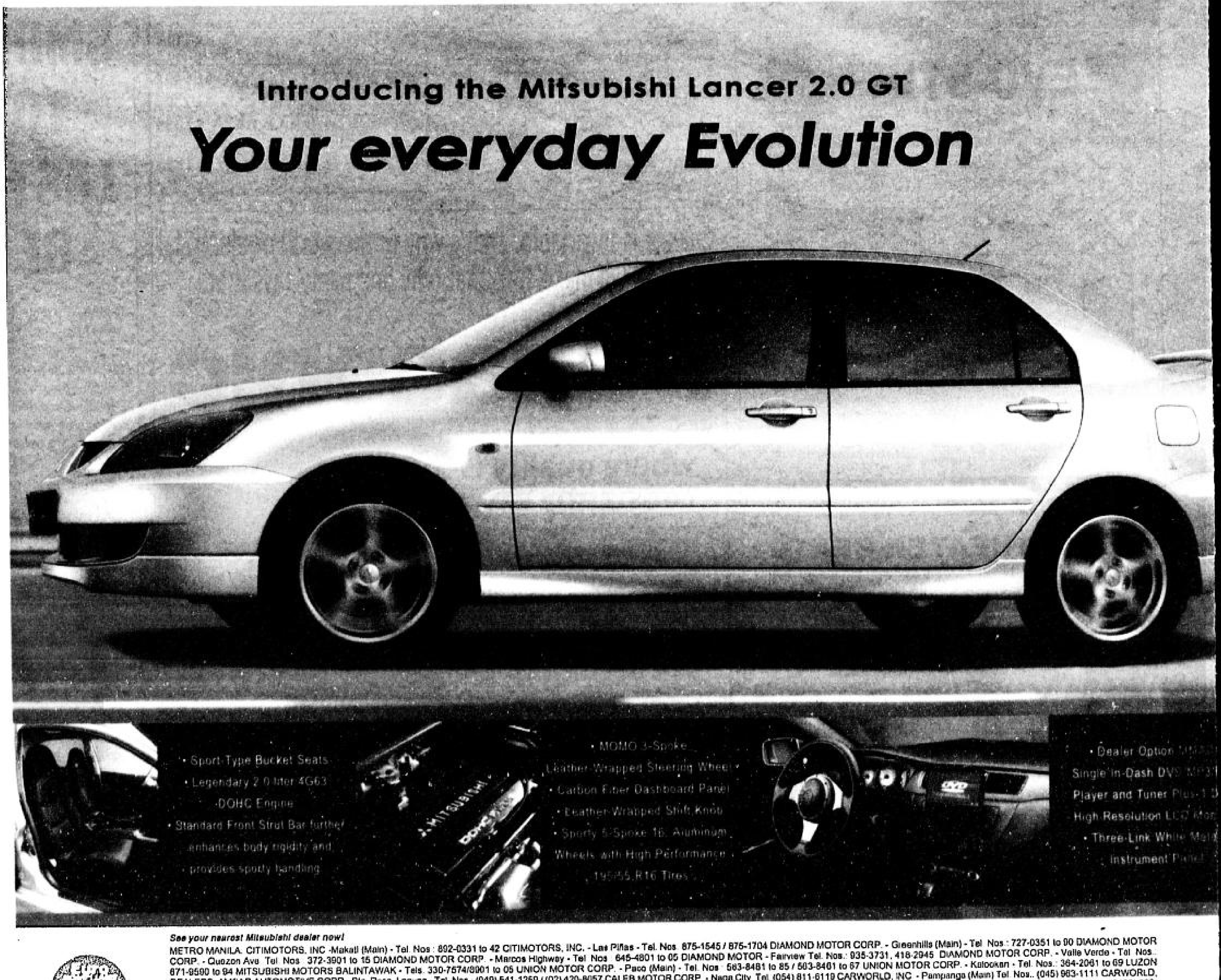
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WARRANTY

Ombudsman orders firing of 3 GSIS officials

By Nelson F. Flores

OMBUDSMAN MERCEDITAS Gutierrez yesterday ordered the immediate dismissal of three senior officials of the Government Service Insurance System for "grave misconduct" for unlawfully issuing a surety bond that bound the retirement fund to the repayment of a $9.31-million loan made by a private company.

Gutierrez identified the officials as Alex M. Valencerina, a vice president; Amalio A. Mallari, a senior vice president; and Fernando U. Campana, a vice president based at the GSIS office in London.

Gutierrez said the case stemmed from the irregular issuance on March 11, 1998 of a surety bond which made the GSIS solidarily liable with the Ecobel Land Inc. in the repayment of company's US$9,307,000 loan to finance the construction of Ecobel Tower Condominium.

Records showed that Valencerina and Mallari "strongly recommended the bond's issuance despite the insufficient collateral posted by Ecobel," Gutierrez said.

Campana on the other hand issued a certification vouching for the bond's authenticity despite knowing that the Ecobel had not paid its premiums, she added.

Former Ombudsman Simeon V. Marcelo had earlier ordered their dismissal but the three officials, following rejection of their appeal for reconsideration, sought a temporary restraining order from the Court of Appeals which expired last January, Gutierrez said.

She directed GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia to submit a compliance report in five days.

In a separate development, Gutierrez said she placed an immigration officer at the Ninoy Aquino international Airport under six months of preventive suspension and filed a string of criminal charges, including graft and corruption, against him for unexplained wealth.

Gutierrez said that while Rodrigo "Rico" C. Pedrealba has consistently declared in his statement of assets and liabilities since 1996 that he owned only one car and three real estate properties in Quezon City and Bulacan, the NBI found he had purchased at least six cars, paying in cash for five of them, and allegedly concealed other assets, including a two story-house and 10 lots, under the names of his father and two sisters.

On top of all these, Pedrealba has managed to go on at least 12 foreign trips over the last 10 years—on a monthly salary of P13,393, the Ombudsman said.

Land Transportation Office records revealed that Pedrealba currently owns under his own name a Honda Civic worth approximately P827,000; a Ford sport utility vehicle worth P955,000; a Ford Lynx worth P685,000; and a Yin motorcycle.

It was also found that Pedrealba registered under the name of his father, Marcial, a Honda CRV worth P1.112M, a two-storey house in a subdivision in Meycauayan, Bulacan; and three other lots elsewhere in the province.

The elder Pedrealba, according to the Ombudsman could not have the resources to acquire the property as he retired from government service more than ten years ago.

Registered under the name of Pedrealba's sister, Liza, who has a monthly income of P5,000, were a lot and a two-story house along with two other properties in Meycauayan, and a 1998 Honda Civic.

Another sister, Liberty, has five parcels of land under her name despite the absence of any recorded source of income.

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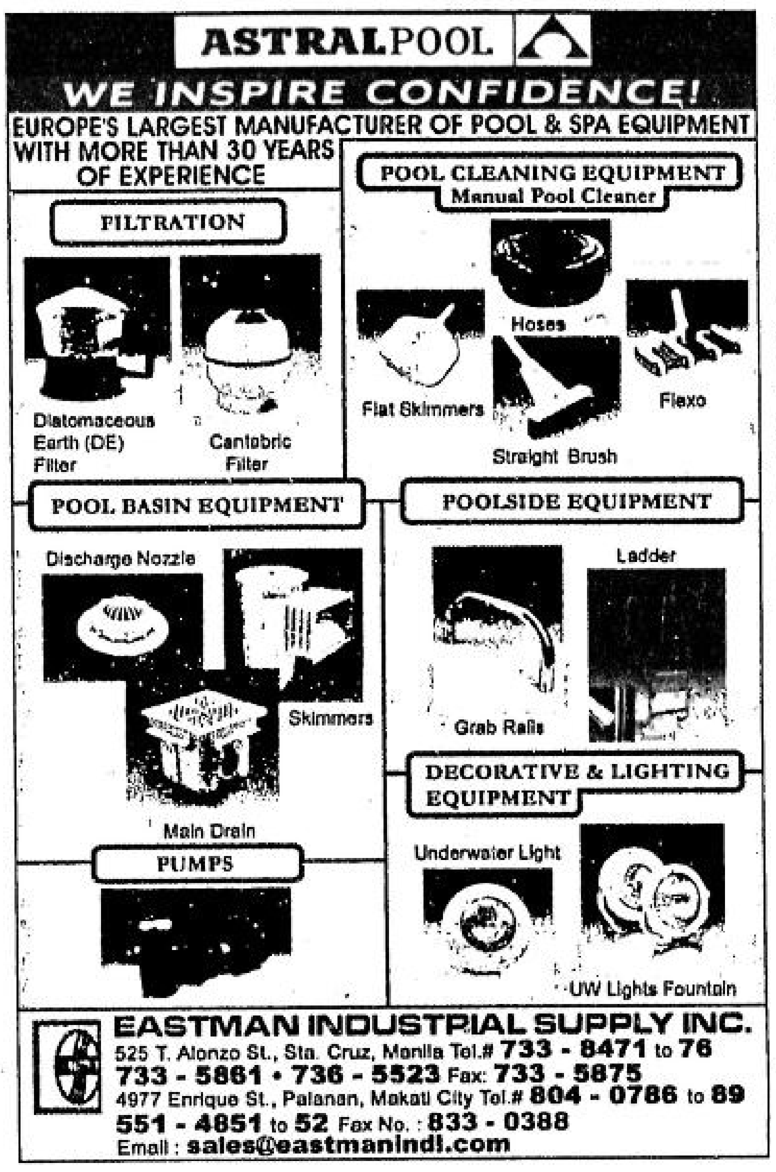

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Finance to move treasurers around

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance has ordered a nationwide reshuffle of municipal and city treasurers in a bid to curb corruption and shore up revenue collections both in the local and national levels.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves bared the move in a meeting with members of the Philippine Association of Local Treasurers and Assessors (Phaltra) on Wednesday.

The DOF, through the Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF), has begun drafting guidelines for the reshuffle, which is targeted for implementation in the next few months.

The BLGF is a unit of the DOF with oversight functions over fiscal concerns of local government units (LGUs).

Quezon City treasurer and Phaltra president Victor Endriga welcomed the program.

"This (reshuffle) will be a healthy exercise," Teves said at the meeting.

The rationale behind the reshuffle is to sustain the enthusiasm for improved tax collections, since people usually step up when given new assignments, he said.

A reshuffle would also help address the tendency of the treasurers to compromise with taxpayers they had become familiar with.

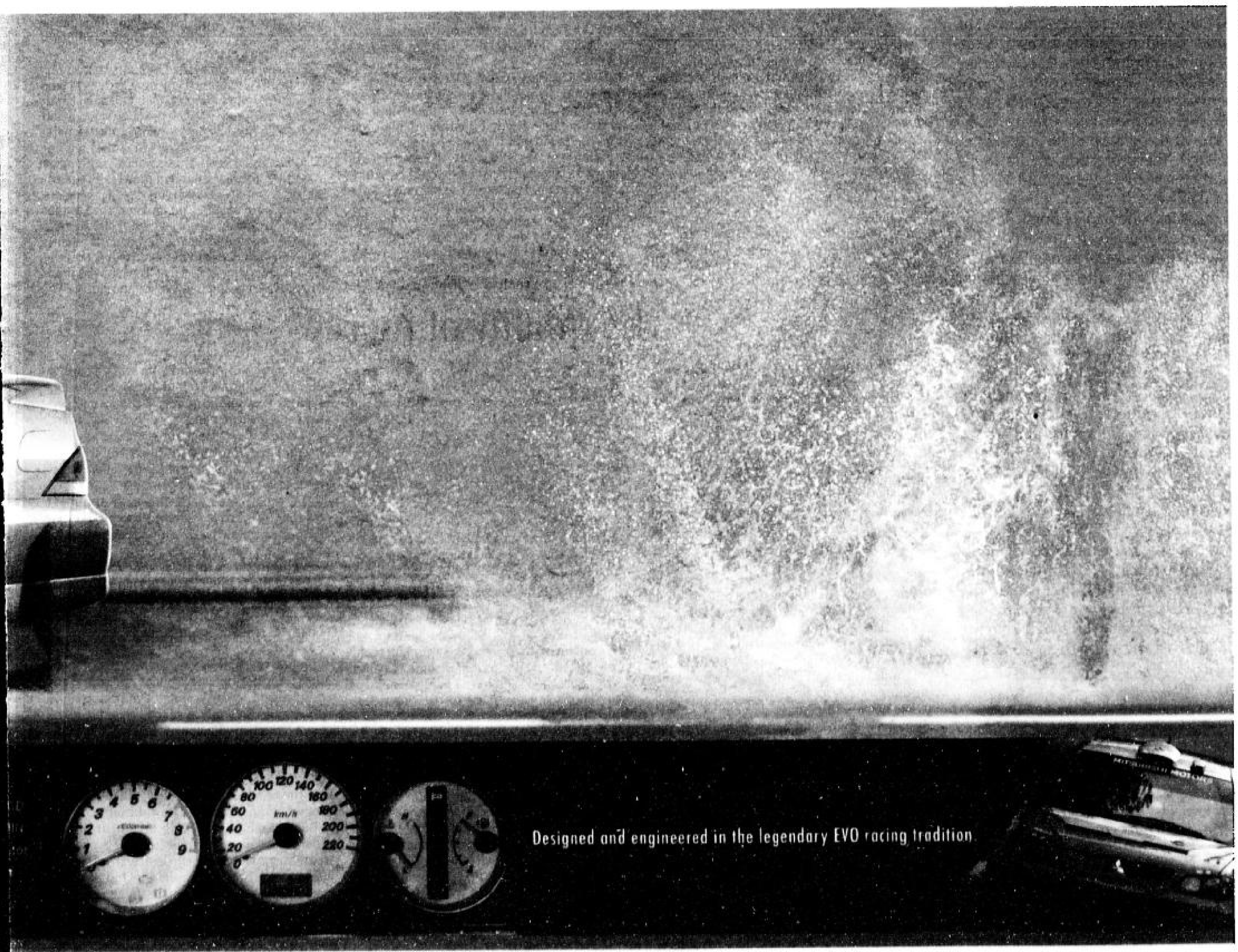
Local treasurers are the lead collectors of taxes from both businesses and individuals.

While what they collect goes mainly to the local governments, treasurers also collect withholding taxes from certain companies for remittance to the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Under the proposed guidelines, a treasurer of one city or municipality may only be reassigned to another local government unit within the same region. This is to avoid the hassle of having to relocate treasurers and their families to distant areas.

A treasurer may also only be reassigned to a city or municipality of the same class as his former assignment to avoid a downgrade in salary. The salaries of treasurers are paid by the local governments.

Michelle V. Remo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Reckless imprudence

EDITORIAL

THE IMAGE OF THE WHEEL OF FATE IS PREVALENT in our culture, as its accompanying warning: One who is riding high should be careful not to run over others, lest fate should decree that the victims get the upper hand some day. It is important for democratic societies to bear this warning in mind. Indeed, today's majority could be tomorrow's minority, and vice versa, which is why minority and individual rights must also always be protected.

The politics of a person is irrelevant when it comes to respecting his or her rights. Ruben Dionisio was abducted and detained on, by all indications, political grounds. When Dr. Antonio Rebosa, medico-legal consultant of the Chinese General Hospital and Medical Center, examined him, the findings were grim. Rebosa testified before the Senate that Dionisio had three fractured ribs, contusions and insect bites all over the body. The fractures and bruises pointed to brutality; the insect bites, to inhumane detention conditions. All these while Dionisio was in the hands of the military and police both of which, supported by ranking civilian officials, initially denied, only to admit later—although reluctantly—to Dionisio's family and other concerned individuals, including the media, the whereabouts of Dionisio and his four companions.

The military and police naturally defended themselves saying that they—and not those whom they abducted—are the victims, having been subjected to irresponsible allegations and unfair pressure. But it is the reaction of the officialdom to the allegations—the denial, then the grudging admission and the continued reluctance to cooperate (or testify) in the investigation into the truth behind the arrest and detention of the "Erap 5"—that has caused public concern and skepticism. Up to now, the authorities can point to neither hard evidence nor inspiring conduct that can persuade the public to set aside the allegations and perceptions of political persecution.

Indeed, even as allies of the President pleaded ignorance, and top level military brass snubbed Senate hearings on the novel and flimsy reasoning provided by their civilian boss, Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr. (the Supreme Court's verdict on EO 464 is inapplicable because it is not yet final and executory, a kind of reasoning that, according to lawyers, flouts standard practice), events such as the abduction of Dionisio and his friends who are of the same political persuasion, take place.

In the political and social scheme of things, Dionisio and his fellow abductees, Virgilio Eustaquio, chair of the pro-Estrada Union of the Masses for Democracy and Justice, Dennis Ebona, Jim Cabauatan and PO3 Jose Curameng, are small fry. But monumental abuses begin with petty tyrannies. What is done to the least eventually happens to those previously considered untouchable. The assassination of Ninoy Aquino was made possible by the unnoticed and unmourned abduction and murder of anonymous students and activists even prior to martial law. The media at the time noticed—and protested—the use of automatic weapons in crowd dispersals. Shut down when martial law was declared, the protesting media found themselves as yet another casualty in Ferdinand Marcos' brutal bid for dictatorial powers.

Dionisio is no hero, he is no Ninoy, some might say and they would be correct in saying so. It doesn't matter whether or not he is: at stake are several principles fundamental to a functioning democracy. The first is, whether the State deserves the virtually limitless power to abduct and maltreat its own citizenry, for whatever reason. The second, whether a cloud of disinformation should be tolerated to obscure actions of so serious import—arrests, detentions, charges before the courts—such that they must be performed with the fullest transparency and with the most scrupulous regard for due process. The third is, whether the means to exact accountability and justice from the powerful should be thwarted, merely because those in power say so. And the fourth is, should any administration be permitted to act as if it will be in power for ever, and wield that power as if it were not answerable to any earthly institution?

The defense and interior secretaries may be civilians, but they bear responsibility for what is taking place under their watch. They may glory in being the alter egos of the President of the Philippines, but they should be ashamed that the military and police they supervise are behaving in such an insolently undemocratic manner.

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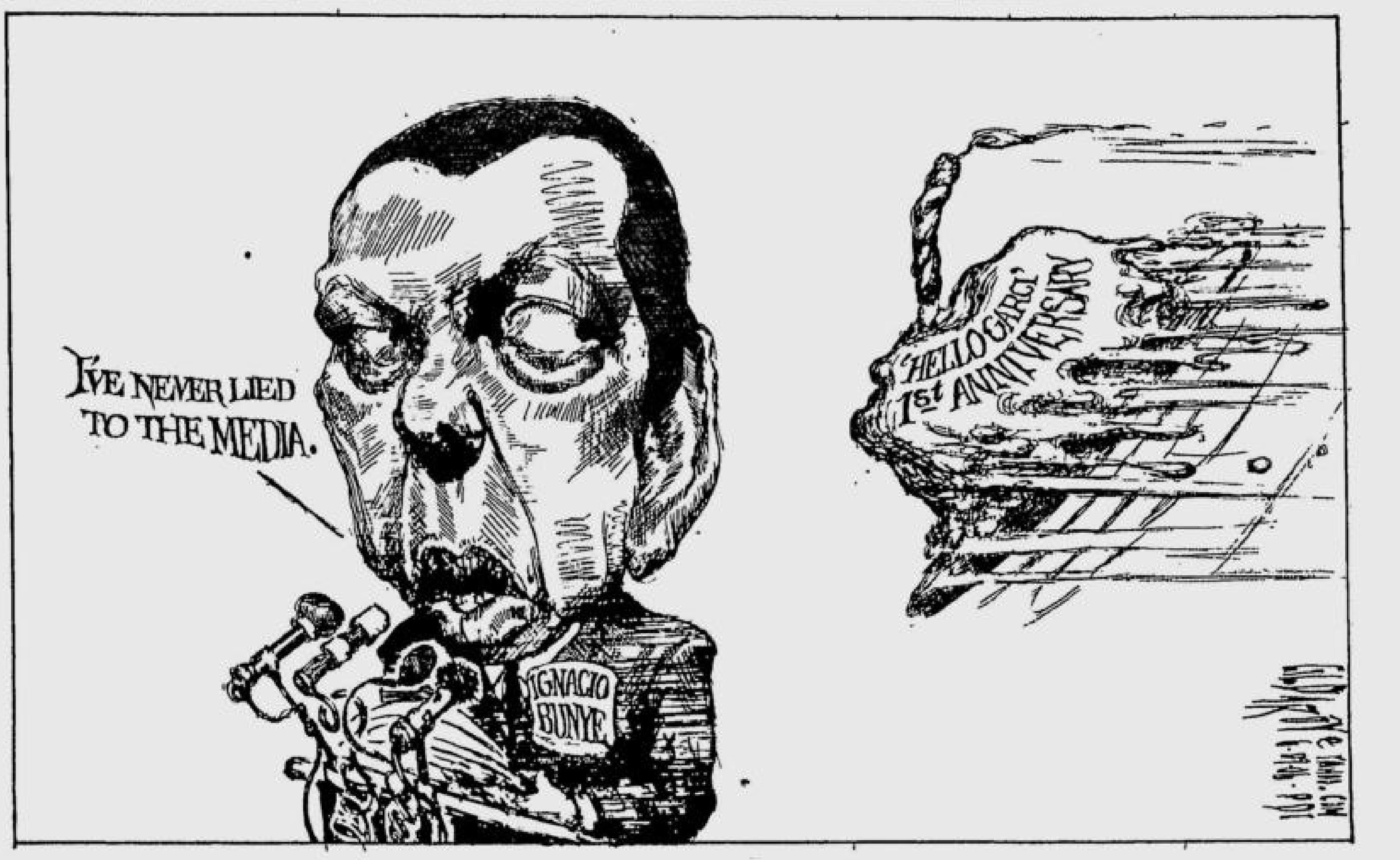

Law to control medicine prices here soon

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

GOOD NEWS FOR PATIENTS WHO ARE slowly being killed by the high cost of medicines: A bill (HB 3830) that seeks to control the prices of selected medicines is up for third reading by the House and is expected to be passed soon. The Senate has already committed to enacting a similar bill.

Price controls in an age of world trade liberalization and free enterprise? In trade liberalization, it is expected that free competition among many companies will force prices down. This is good in theory but a failure in reality.

There are more than 300 pharmaceutical firms—Filipino and multinational—in the Philippines. They either manufacture or import some 25,000 registered drugs. Yet the prices of medicines here are persistently the highest in the world. Some medicines are five times more expensive when sold in the Philippines than when they are sold in other Asian countries. As the explanatory note of HB 3830 puts it, "competition as we know it in the Philippine pharmaceutical industry does not necessarily translate to cheaper products for the Filipinos."

As if that were not enough, our government seems helpless in stopping drugs overpricing. The multinationals are having a field day jacking up their medicine prices as much as they want—in the absence of government intervention and control.

The cartel of multinational companies in the pharmaceutical industry is bigger than usual. The products of the multinationals are manufactured and distributed by only one or two manufacturers and retailed by only one giant pharmaceutical retail chain, which is itself so big it can dictate its prices and terms to the whole industry. It has practically killed all the family owned *boticas* in the Philippines. The cartel controls 80 percent of the Philippine medicine market which has an annual sales of P100 billion.

The Philippine government has long been aware of the stranglehold of the multinationals on Filipinos and has tried twice to loosen it. The first time through the Generics Law that mandates doctors to write down the generic names of the medicines they are prescribing. In its second try, the government has embarked on a program that would allow the parallel importation of expensive (locally) drugs by the Philippine International Trading Center (PITC). For this an annual budget of P500 million has been allotted. But what can P500 million do in a P100-billion market? The PITC imports have hardly any effect on the market. In fact, most Filipinos are not even aware that they can buy cheaper medicines from Botica ng Bayan outlets. In the first place, they hardly see any Botica ng Bayan outlet at all. And when they go to one, the medicine they need is usually not available.

Now comes this third attempt to control medicine prices: HB 3830, the Drug Prices Regulation Act of 2005, authored by Rep. Ferjenel Biron, a doctor and a local manufacturer of medicines (so he should know what he is talking about), Rolex Suplico, Rodolfo Plaza and Janette Garin.

The bill seeks to create a Drug Prices Regulation Board that would set the maximum prices of all formulations indicated for the treatment of all chronic illnesses and life-threatening conditions; and for the prevention of diseases, for the prevention of pregnancy; as well as the prices of anesthetic agents. The prices would be printed on the labels and packaging so the prices would be the same all over the Philippines.

The multinationals are expected to mount a generous lobby against the bill, as they have done in the past against the Generics Law and now against the PITC. Although PITC's imports hardly make a dent in the volume of their sales and profit, the multinationals have mounted a clever propaganda campaign against the imports. It has the appearance of a campaign against fake medicines. A Coalition Against Counterfeit Medicines has been formed with the multinationals as the core group and campaign financiers; and for credibility, it includes, ironically, government agencies like the Bureau of Food and Drugs, the Department of Health, the Department of Trade, and unsuspecting print and broadcast media outlets. (At the Kapihan sa Manila last June 5, we had as guests Representative Biron, Mr. Joe Cortez of the PITC and Rod Cornejo of the Coalition.)

Who can quarrel with a campaign against "fake medicines"? But it so happens that the campaign is against "counterfeit" medicines, and in the Philippines, the impression is that "counterfeit" and "fake" are one and the same. Wrong.

As defined in Republic Act 8203 or the Special Law on Counterfeit Drugs (which I suspect was written under the influence of the multinationals), "counterfeit" includes genuine medicines with the same formulations as those manufactured here but which are imported. Thus, the cheaper medicines imported by the PITC from India and Pakistan—although manufactured by the sister companies of the multinatioal companies—which are exactly the same as those made here, fall under the definition of "counterfeit."

The propaganda of the Coalition, in fact, targets the PITC imports. How do you detect "fake medicines"? Says the propaganda: *Pagka kaduda-duda and presyo* (When the price is low), and *Pagkaduda-duda ang pinanggalingan* (When the source is doubtful, meaning when they are not manufactured here). Those who do not realize that those lines are intended principally against the PITC imports, which are cheaper and are imported, are stupid. The unkindest cut is that naïve government agencies and media outlets are being used to make the propaganda against the PITC credible. The irony of it all is that the PITC is another government agency whose job is to provide cheaper medicine imports.

'The quality of mercy'

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

"NASTY, BRUTISH AND SHORT." WITH these three famous adjectives and a few others, The Leviathan explained why man, wild and otherwise free, chose to live under a government.

Without governments, Thomas Hobbes said, we would live in a state of nature "where every man is enemy to every man…wherein men live without other security than their own strength…[in] continual fear and danger of violent death; and the life of man, solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short."

That, exactly, is still what is felt today by pedestrians when they cross Manila's roads, by the nation's poor when they scrounge through garbage in our various Smokey Mountains and, I imagine, by death row convicts when they awake each morning—that is, until the other day when Congress finally outlawed capital punishment and justly made their lives in the dungeons nasty, brutish and long.

The 1987 Constitution had earlier banned all "cruel and unusual punishment" including the death penalty, but allowed Congress to restore it "for compelling reasons involving heinous crimes." In 1993, Congress, faced by a rash of kidnappings and murders—and playing to a gallery hungry for a hanging—restored the death penalty for acts deemed "odious" for their "inherent or manifest wickedness, viciousness, atrocity and perversity."

I welcome the abolition of the death penalty and join my colleagues in the Center for Restorative Justice in Asia in rejoicing at this restoration of sanity in public debate.

Many years back, US Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun presided over an Aspen Institute on Humanistic Studies seminar that I attended with my wife. He would later write the classic death penalty dissent in Callins v. Collins: "From this day forward, I no longer shall tinker with the machinery of death …. Rather than continue to coddle the Court's delusion that the desired level of fairness has been achieved, [I simply] concede that the death penalty experiment has failed. [No] combination of procedural rules or substantive regulations ever can save [it]." Victor Hugo's "The Last Day of a Condemned" could very well have spoken of Blackmun: "How grand … a council of Brahmins, advocating the cause of the Pariah!"

Whenever I lectured against the death penalty, I noticed that Pinoy audiences were best convinced by pragmatic arguments, and rarely by esoteric philosophies. John Maynard Keynes once said (and here I paraphrase) that every shopkeeper is slave to the theories of some defunct economic theorist long dead—and we can say the same thing about politicians who will pocket but not read "The Wealth of Nations."

The most powerful pragmatic argument was that the death penalty has failed to deter crime. The true deterrent is the reasonable certainty of being caught and convicted. I am not sure if Congress looked at the numbers when it repealed the death penalty law, or if such reliable data were available at all. But of this I am certain: if the goal was deterrence, we are better off with a CSI-capable NBI, a Richard Goldstone or Louise Arbour as prosecutor, and a Harry Blackmun as judge.

In Herman Melville's "Billy Budd," the ship captain called for the hanging of Billy, and reminded his hand-picked but conscience-stricken jury of the perils of what today's executioners call "cruel and unusual leniency." He said: "Gentlemen … consider the consequences of such clemency. The people have native sense; most of them are familiar with our naval usage and tradition; and how would they take it? Even could you explain to them … they, long molded by arbitrary discipline, have not that kind of intelligent responsiveness that might qualify them to comprehend and discriminate."

The gallows aim more at spectacle and ritual rather than justice, and that is why, as Victor Hugo noticed, the "scaffold is the only edifice which revolutions do not demolish."

The other compelling practical argument was that our justice system is flawed. First, it is anti-poor, and the death penalty is disproportionately borne by those who cannot afford able counsel. Indeed, the US Supreme Court, in the leading case Furman v. Georgia, struck down the death penalty as "cruel and unusual" if it was arbitrary, as when it was racially biased, or it offended society's sense of justice.

Moreover, death is too final a verdict in an imperfect of world where police and courts err, and civilized legal systems have preferred to let the guilty live "because the constable blundered." Justice Blackmun said: "[T]he inevitability of factual, legal and moral error gives us a system that we know must wrongly kill some defendants, a system that fails to deliver the fair, consistent and reliable sentences of death required by the Constitution."

But the most compelling argument, in my experience, is refreshingly normative—that state-sanctioned murder demeans all of us who stand idly by and even applaud as a human being is executed. It is our dignity and humanity—not the pariah's alone—that is at stake each time a life is taken. Murders are committed by the mad and the evil. Executions are carried out with deliberate coolness through the collusion of entire societies, and with the apathy of those who lack the courage of their convictions.

Shakespeare, of course, said it better: "The *quality of mercy is not strain'd/ It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven/ Upon the place beneath: it is twice blest;/*
It blesseth him that gives and him that takes."
Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

The changing faces of conspiracy

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

AT THE LAST TWO TESTIMONIES OF DEPOSED President Joseph Estrada at the Sandiganbayan, the defense presented evidence portraying him as a victim of conspiracy among the military and the political elite which "could not accept" his landslide election in 1998.

In that election, two candidates with contrasting political backgrounds rode to power on the crest of landslides—Estrada and then Sen. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. The latter, receiving more votes than Estrada, was elected vice president.

Indeed, the 1998 election results signaled the triumph of electoral populism, in contrast to the 1992 election where Gen. Fidel Ramos squeezed through with only 27 percent of the vote, topping a field of six.

In presenting the evidence, the defense underlined two themes: first, Estrada as a man of the masses and a champion of the poor; and, second, as Estrada put it in his testimony, "powerful and influential people" allegedly conspired to oust him "because these people never wanted me to become an elected president."

Estrada played up the populist and class themes as the Sandiganbayan moved closer to the end of the plunder and perjury case against him, who has testified in the five-year-old Sandiganbayan case eight times in three months. This political line of defense shifts the issue from the main thrust of the prosecution, emphasizing the paper trail of his secret bank accounts—upon which the prosecution is building its plunder case and suppression of which by the impeachment tribunal in the Senate triggered People Power II.

What's Heartening about the trial is that it is at last coming to an end, but Estrada's evidence and testimony are serving another purpose—they are painting a kaleidoscopic image of the changing configurations of conspiracies all aimed at overthrowing elected presidents.

Over the past one year, the members of the political elite have re-grouped to try to topple President Arroyo this time, motivated not by their fears of class war but by their deep aversion to one of their kind in the middle class.

In his testimony last week, Estrada identified the "powerful and influential people" allegedly involved in the conspiracy, among them then Vice President Arroyo, former President Ramos, the late Jaime Cardinal Sin, and some unnamed Catholic bishops who "could not accept" his overwhelming poll victory. These constituted the political elite component of the alleged conspiracy cabal, colluding with ranking military and police officials—among them then armed forces chief of staff Gen. Angelo Reyes and Police Superintendent Reynaldo Berroya.

At the hearing last Wednesday, Estrada presented a video of Ms Arroyo speaking to the Council of Philippine Affairs (Copa) in February 2001, a month after Estrada was toppled. The gathering was held at a Makati hotel and was a public event which I attended. In that speech, Ms Arroyo recalled that she was introduced in January 2000 to "a group who already then was working for eventual withdrawal of support" from Estrada. Ms Arroyo said in her video "I was talking to five different groups and they didn't know one another." She identified the separate anti-Estrada groups to include Leandro Mendoza of the Philippine National Police, Maj. Gen. Art Carillo, Lt. Gen. Alberto Braganza and Lt. Gen. Edgardo Espinosa. They had separate agendas.

At the time of the speech, Copa was an ally of Ms Arroyo and was the host of the meeting which was held as a celebration of the fall of Estrada. The Estrada testimony and the video drew a social relief map of power brokers behind the political change from People Power I to People Power II. They called attention to the shifting sands of political alignment over the past 20 years and the instability of alliances built on the political elite-military and Catholic Church complex.

And if this alliance withdrew support from Estrada in 2001, the Arroyo regime, which was a beneficiary of the conspiracy, cannot be safe from the changing allegiance of members of this conspiratorial cabal. The faces in the conspiracy that toppled Estrada have changed sides—for example, Copa has been denounced by the President as being engaged in the campaign to oust her. The military, influential big business families, the Catholic hierarchy, the political elite—the cornerstone of the movement to oust Estrada—have proved to be an unstable foundation of alliance-making, as Ms Arroyo has recently found out.

As for Estrada, he has realized that the AFP chain of command is at best an unreliable anchor of long-term stability. Neither can Ms Arroyo trust the loyalty of the chain of command, whose cracks were exposed during the Fort Bonifacio Marines' unrest last February. At the height of the crisis in July 2005, the Arroyo regime was pushed to the brink of collapse by the break-up of the political elite with the defection of her party allies in her winning coalition (in the 2004 elections) and the resignation of key members of her Cabinet, and by the divisions in the hierarchy of bishops.

In proclaiming a state of national emergency last February, Ms Arroyo presented a new face of conspiracy, this time composed of mutinous military officers involved in the aborted February coup attempt, Left-wing militants and sectors of middle-class establishments, including the media. This different permutation illustrates the unstable basis of shifting alliances, upon which the Arroyo regime is precariously perched.

Whether or not the testimony of Estrada will help acquit him in the plunder trial, it comes as a warning that regimes brought to power by conspiracies are as secure as the next conspiracy.

Just say no—to sex?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IF CHILDREN ONLY DID US PARENTS THE FAVOR of following everything we told them to do, we would surely be living in paradise. But as every parent knows, getting children to brush their teeth before leaving the house or to stop bickering among themselves over dinner is a thousand times harder than getting the Israelis and Palestinians to the negotiation table.

And it only gets harder the older they get. If we can't get our kids to eat their veggies, no matter our exhortations about good health and the need for fiber in the diet, what makes us think that by telling our teenage children to "just say no"—to drinks, drugs, cigarettes and sex—we have done our parental duty by them?

I don't know if Michael Mapa is a parent, much less a parent of a teenager, but clearly he has little experience with this exotic species. Surely, he couldn't have been serious in his letter to the editor when he insisted that all the significant adults in the life of the teenage mother (whom I wrote about last May 12) needed to tell her was that "what she was doing with her life was wrong." And, "if you're going to advise persons not to engage in unprotected sex, go one better: advise them not to have sex, period."

What makes Michael think that if only someone bothered to tell this to the teen-age mother, then she would not have engaged in sex and gotten pregnant well before she was ready for the responsibilities of parenthood?

Would teenagers today deny themselves pleasure on the simple say-so of adults, even of parents? Did we—when we were teen-agers ourselves?

Risky, reckless behavior happens to be a hallmark of adolescence. It's a young person's way of carving out an identity. That's why we parents dread its onset—and the rocky ride we all have to weather before they become adults.

* * *

WHETHER we like it or not, young Filipinos are engaging in sex before marriage. The Young Adult Fertility Survey 3, conducted by the UP Population Institute in 2002, finds that 4.9 million Filipinos age 15-24 (out of a population of 16.5 million), had engaged in pre-marital sex. Of those who admitted to being sexually active, 1.6 million had "multiple partners," and 400,000 were having same-sex relations. And of those having sex, only 19 percent admitted to having used some form of protection.

Teen pregnancy is one consequence of such behavior. The 2003 National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) found that by age 17, 7 percent of their women respondents had become pregnant; by age 18, the number rose to 11.9 percent; and by age 19, the number of teen-age girls getting pregnant had reached 23.5 percent.

"Sexual risk-taking among Filipino youth is becoming more pervasive," Ma. Paz Marquez and Normita Galban note in their study of the YAFS2 and YAFS3 findings, titled rather provocatively "Getting Hotter, Going Wilder: Changes in Sexual Risk-taking Behavior among Filipino Youth."

Dr. Corazon Raymundo, who oversaw both YAFS2 and YAFS3, concedes that the findings are "shocking and revealing," as it tracks a rising incidence of risky sexual behavior among young Filipinos in the eight years between the two studies.

* * *

CECILE Villa, executive director of the Foundation for Adolescent Development (FAD), which was founded in 1988 and runs the "Dial-a-Friend" counseling hotline, concedes the link between information, awareness and behavior when it comes to teens and sex. While young people may know about the link between sex and pregnancy, says Villa, "*hindi lang nila masyadong alam na* (they are not so aware that) pregnancy is possible each time you engage in sex." There is a distinct lack of fertility awareness among young women, she adds, including making the link between menstruation and fertility. A lot of misconceptions still abound, especially regarding withdrawal (whether it is a "safe" method of contraception; it is not, it is highly unreliable), and "the number of times you have to have sex before the girl can get pregnant" (a single instance of unprotected sex taking place during a girl's fertile period will most likely result in pregnancy).

But even if they have their brains crammed with all the sex education information they need, young people are still vulnerable precisely because they are young people. They think themselves invulnerable and immortal, and so they do not make the connect between their personal experiences and feelings, and all the "scary" stories we can throw at them about pregnancy and STI's, including HIV/AIDS.

* * *

WHAT, then are we parents to do? Do we just throw packets of condoms and contraceptive pills at them and tell them, as Mapa writes so derisively, to just wear asbestos gloves while playing with fire?

Maybe we should make "fire" unattractive to them, at least in this stage of life. And we can best do that precisely by giving them information—information without judgment or moralizing or the intent to scare the bejeezus out of them. Knowledge about their bodies, their bodily functions, sexuality and relationships is the basic human right of all people, teens especially. And it is information and knowledge that take all the exoticism out of sex and blunt the curious teen's fascination about its allure.

Basically, we can "protect" teens from risky sex only if we respect them, respect them enough to answer their questions honestly and factually, and respect their ability to make decisions for themselves based on what they know is best for them. And if we parents cannot or will not take on the responsibility to educate our children about sex, I would hope that we would be humble enough to turn to other adults—teachers, counselors, midwives, nurses and doctors—to do the talking for us.

When politics threatens art and culture

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

TO PARAPHRASE JOHN F. KENNEDY COMmenting on a glittering White House Dinner, this morning in Malacañang, there will be a gathering of Filipino artistic and intellectual talents that has not been seen there since Jose Rizal sat in a small antechamber all by himself, waiting to see the Governor General. For today, the Order of National Artists will be officially conferred on seven individuals whose life and work have enriched our lives. However, it is a sad commentary on Philippine media that they have focused their sights on only one awardee—Fernando Poe Jr., sidelining in the process the other six. Just for the record they are: Bienvenido Lumbera (Literature), Benedicto Cabrera (Visual Arts) Ramon Valera (Design and Allied Arts), Abdulmari Imao (Sculpture), Ramon Obsuan (Dance) and Ildefonso Santos (Landscape Architecture).

The worst message of the story is that politics destroys anything it touches, including culture and this highest of artistic awards. Media should give us good news through these newly minted national artists, but they have chosen to make news of whether or not Susan Roces would go to Malacañang to receive the award from someone whom she accused of stealing the presidency not once but twice.

If FPJ did not get the award, partisans would have howled that he deserved it and that politics kept the award from him. Now that he has been given the much coveted award, the partisans are howling anyway that the award is *consuelo de bobo* or *pampalubag loob* and Ms Roces should not accept it.

Ms Roces should see beyond the President and realize that FPJ got the award after a contentious screening process. He was selected to receive the award by the joint boards of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and the Cultural Center of the Philippines. The National Artist Award is being given by a grateful nation. To reject it is our collective loss.

The citations alone are very inspiring, and I wish people will say the same things about me in my lifetime rather than wait and say this in front of my bier during necrological services. We cannot print all the citations in this column but to give you a preview, this is what is said of Bencab:

"BENEDICTO R. CABRERA, who signs his paintings 'Bencab,' the justly acclaimed artist who upheld the primacy of drawing over the decorative color, put enviable talent into the noble service of delineating a portrait of his people and conceiving metaphors of their complex national history.

"Bencab started his career in the mid-sixties as a lyrical expressionist. His solitary figures of scavengers emerging from a dark landscape were piercing stabs at the social conscience of a people long inured to poverty and dereliction. As vehicles for social protest, these works had a languidly haunting quality, made more conspicuous by the artist's predilection for earthen hues. Bencab has christened the emblematic scavenger figure 'Sabel.' To the artist, she is a melancholic symbol of dislocation, despair and isolation—the personification of human dignity threatened by life's vicissitudes and the vast inequities of Philippine society.

"Impelled from the start to seek his own identity, both as person and artist, Bencab ironically discovered himself—and his country—in exile. The long years of expatriation brought into existence his now fabled 'Larawan' paintings. Bencab is largely instrumental in bringing to light the virtues of colonial photography, harnessing the medium and its methods to sustain a discourse on how memory makes the past and the future condense in the present through a spectrum of devices like cropping, montage and patination. Thus, Bencab would ignite the electric collision between nostalgic remembrance and current pulsation, each commenting on the other, creating sparks of irony and sentiment.

"The 'Larawan' paintings connect his art to the collective consciousness of his compatriots and converse with his other concerns like the depiction of migrants in Europe and America, heroes of struggles, and everyday Filipinos caught up in the cycles and revolutions in culture. The artist would render these diverse subjects in a range of techniques, from oil and acrylic, pastel and etching, and very scrupulous drawing as discerned in his illustrations for books.

"The emotional and psychic resonance that quietly emanate from these efforts is the reason for the sustained energy of a deep, lasting oeuvre. Through over three decades, his works have evolved in imagery, chromaticism and painterly approach. The fluency of the artist's determined lines and the nuanced strokes and compositions have conspired to recreate a landscape of people and places across time that is home to both trauma and transcendence.

"Bencab's exploration of form, finding his way out of the late neo-realism and high abstraction of the sixties to be able to reconsider the potency of figurative expression, had held out vital options for Philippine art in the Martial Law years in the seventies through the contemporary era. This critical transition can only affirm that his vision is resonant because it continually responds to the exigencies of art and society and the aspirations of Filipinos."

One would wish that the other citations and artists be given the same valuable space and air time.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Catholic education

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

TWO CATHOLIC SCHOOLS MARK IMPORTANT ANNIVERsaries this year: Xavier School in San Juan marks its 50th year today, and St. Scholastica's will have its centennial in a few weeks.

I'm writing about them because I studied in Xavier and my mother in St. Scholastica's. But I don't want non-Xaverians and non-Scholasticans to stop reading, so let me assure you I'm going to take a different take on these anniversaries, sharing a few historical footnotes as my way of paying tribute to its founders and of tackling the issue of Catholic education itself.

Saving souls

Both Xavier and St. Scholastica's were started by foreign Catholic religious. St. Scholastica's is most identified with German Benedictine sisters. Xavier was founded by a team of Jesuits, mostly Basques and French-Canadians, and many others of different nationalities. What brought these men together was a passion not for the Philippines but for China. They were all originally assigned to work as missionaries in China but they were expelled after the communist victory in 1949. So they moved to the Philippines, hoping to minister the Chinese community in the Philippines. There was already a girls' school, Immaculate Conception Academy, so they set up one for boys.

It was not accidental that these schools were started by foreign Catholic religious. After the Americans occupied the Philippines in 1898, the Catholic Church realized that they now faced competition from American Protestant missionaries. Even if the country already had many Catholic schools, there was more work for Catholic religious. So you had new schools set up like St. Scholastica's—and Maryknoll which was established by American sisters.

The Jesuits faced a different kind of competition. The Protestants had been quite active prosletyzing with the local Chinese, and had set up schools like St. Stephen's and Grace Christian, offering the full range of Chinese subjects. The Jesuits knew they had a niche to carve, offering Chinese subjects through a Catholic institution for boys.

There then is part of the story behind these schools: a battle for souls.

Not clones

There can be no doubts about how committed the schools' founders were to the Catholic Church. They left comfortable lives—there were always rumors of a German princess or two in St. Scholastica's—to work under the most difficult of conditions. When the Jesuits arrived in Manila, the city was still recovering from World War II, and so Xavier started out in an old barracks building in Echague, Quiapo.

The anniversaries of St. Scholastica's and Xavier offer us an opportunity to look at how the founders combined their religious faith with their commitment to a different mission: that of education. Looking now, in 2006, at what they've established, I have no doubts that they were effective as Catholic educators because they were able to transcend the stereotypes associated with missionary work.

To the credit of the Jesuits and Benedictine sisters, their schools didn't quite try to mold students in their own image, at least not in a rigid sense.

I think back now of Xavier's priests and how staunchly anti-communist they were. There were summers where the priests organized groups of Xaverians to go to Taiwan. Besides sight-seeing, we were herded into rallies with crowds chanting out slogans about driving the communists out of the mainland and freeing China.

In high school, when I submitted a term paper about Vinoba Bhave, an Indian who fought for land reform, my English teacher, an American, scribbled on my paper: "Bhave was a communist."

Actually, Bhave was a socialist, not a communist; but in retrospect, I can understand where the priests were coming from. It was the height of the Cold War, and the priests had gone through persecution in China.

Yet, in fairness, they never tried to impose their views on us. Our teachers were a mixed lot, allowed to air their own opinions. One of my favorites was a Chinese woman who had married a Filipino. I'm not giving her name because even today, I'm not sure how her family feels about what she did. She spoke Chinese languages fluently and knew her history well—she had little sympathy for Taiwan and the Kuomintang government there, talking about the corruption in China that eventually led to the communists' victory. Those were very radical views for her times.

There was diversity in school—non-Catholics were not required to attend Mass, or to convert. The world was there for us to explore, daily from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.. We had a great library, with an even greater librarian, Reynaldo Alejandro, who eventually left for New York but still comes home regularly and is known for his wonderful books about the Philippines. The priests fully supported him in developing an excellent library, without censorship. Much of my curiosity about the world, which I try to share through this column, was nurtured in Mr. Alejandro's library.

Feisty

St. Scholastica's is more intriguing. The sisters were German, and you know what the stereotypes are about the German fixation on orderliness and routine. As if being German wasn't enough, they were Benedictine, an order which sought to glorify God through work on days divided into rigid routines.

My mother remembers, and appreciates, the discipline of St. Scholastica's, but she also remembers the nuns encouraging creativity, and taking on the outside world. They must have done something right, because eventually, some of their Filipina students took over the school, as nuns and lay people. With strong programs on social awareness and on gender sensitivity, you can see a real difference between a Scholastican and your other Filipina *colegialas* (convent school graduates).

A few weeks back, I caught TV footage showing Akbayan Rep. Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel being arrested at a rally and arguing with the police. I ran into her a few days later and congratulated her: "They should know better than to pick on a Scholastican." Actually, quite a few of the Hontiveros women went through St. Scholastica's, the more visible ones being Risa and Pia on ABS-CBN.

Xaverians? They're a bit more conservative, mostly business people and professionals, but I'd still like to think Xaverians also come from a different mold. Xaverians are comfortable straddling different worlds, seeing no contradiction between being Chinese and Filipino, between being a businessman and appreciating a good play, or a good film. I'd like to think, too, that even if Xaverians pale in comparison to strong and independent women like my mother and the Hontiveroses, we do know what our principles are, and stand for them.

The Jesuits and Benedictine sisters taught us the importance of faith and mission, of conviction without falling into the traps of bigotry and intolerance. Each in their own way, Xavier and St. Scholastica's offer us models for Catholic education.

Remembering Culion with pride

I AM A FILIPINA WRITER/PRODUCER who lives in the Italian Riviera, between Genoa and Nervi. From our windows and garden, we can gaze at the Mediterranean, the sight of which thrills me each time and prods me to work. This explains, as well, why I am still attracted to Roxas Boulevard, Ermita, Malate, etc. Manila Bay exercises an irresistible pull on me.

I am writing a five-book saga on the Philippines. It covers over a 100-year period, and each book features, as the main protagonist, one of the members of my maternal clan—Nieto, Ortigas and Valdes.

Ceres Doyo's "Culion: the nun's story" touched me deeply, as I had a close relative who lived and chose to die in Culion. I was thinking of visiting his grave this summer.

One of my mother's first cousins, Eduardo Valdes, a promising young man who was studying medicine in Germany, was stricken with leprosy and chose to live in Culion. That must have been around 1937-1938, shortly before World War II.

My great aunt, Doña Virjita Valdes Vacani, mother of Eduardo, looked after my cousin Guadalupe, who was born in Culion on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. I celebrated my eighth birthday with a huge fete at Santol Mansion, and *Tia Abuela* Virjita came with "Lupe," who must have been about 9 years old that time. She was a polyglot—she spoke Castilian, English, French, Filipino (Tagalog), Ilonggo, and many other local dialects.

The point was that the Valdes family—the same one as that of General Basilio Valdes, aide de camp to Gen. Douglas MacArthur—certainly had the means to send him anywhere in the world. Uncle Eduardo insisted that he stay in Culion. It was not a secret. Indeed, the clan was proud of Eduardo and his work in Culion, assisting others. His wife was a leper as well.

I am planning to go to Manila sometime in June. Perhaps, I could meet with Doyo? I definitely will order her book. It's a must have. Where can I find it?

—ISABEL VON FECHTMANN,
checkmate@alice.it

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

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Tide of patriotism and nationalism stirring, rising in sea of apathy

IF MILITANTS AND JOURNALISTS ARE afraid to be added to the 603 victims of extrajudicial killings, the Arroyo administration is obviously so afraid to lose Malacañang that it has become so paranoid.

The Commission on Human Rights said it all. The Philippine government is responsible for the human rights abuses committed against militants, labor unions and journalists. The Amnesty International has also raised an alarm. Earlier on, international groups, such as Reporters Without Borders, International Federation of Journalists, and even the United Nations Special Rapporteur (in its 2002 visit to check on the human rights situation of the indigenous peoples) have expressed concern about serious human rights violations in the country. The Church has also called for a stop to the killings and an end to repressive and militarist policies.

The tide of public opinion against the Arroyo administration is rising, and the spirit of vigilance refuses to be dampened. Our people's sense of patriotism and nationalism, which has yielded to apathy for the longest time, is now stirring awake in every Filipino heart.

There is no stopping the peoples' rage. Now a significant majority is breathing life into the old adage, "*Ang sundalo, kapag nasusugatan ay lalong tumatapang.*" (A soldier when wounded, becomes even more courageous.)

The Filipino people, an army so strong and powerful that it has ousted two tyrants and driven away colonial powers, are rising to reclaim the rights stolen from them. And they who are caught red-handed transgressing democracy and freedom must be very afraid.

—PITCH MANGONDATO,
Union of Muslims
for Morality and Truth (UMMAT),
530 3rd Fl. Ortiz Bldg,
Quezon Avenue, Quezon City

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Let tree fall where it leans

WE SHOULD BE KEEPING AN EYE ON President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo not as a person but as a leader and public figure, especially in the aspect of how she manages the affairs of government.

Let the tree fall where it leans. If Arroyo's actions merit credit, it is but proper to give her the accolades she deserves. If they don't, we should be vigilant and criticize her.—**Joey Burgos (via e-mail)**

* * *

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

We must go back to the basics of good manners and right conduct, the essence of which is respect. We are the only Christian country in Southeast Asia, full of positive values inculcated by our forefathers in our hearts and minds.

I believe we have forgotten most of these values. Filipinos have become self-centered, especially our political leaders.—**Salvador B. Oleo (via e-mail)**

* * *

Why not adopt a two-party system for our presidential form of government, just like what the United States have? That way, the people will be able to express clearly their choice for president.

Raise the minimum requirements that a candidate must meet to qualify for president, senators and congressmen. Educational attainment should be at the top of the list of the requirements. This is the only way we can have elections that are decided not by popularity but by intelligence. And this way, there will be less confusion during elections as there will be fewer candidates, thus making it easy for the electorate to choose the person they think is best qualified.

The small number of candidates will somehow have a domino effect. There will be less election-related violence and less cheating.

Once and for all, let us get rid of politicians who do not deserve to be in public office in the first place.—**Edwin Tayag (via e-mail)**

* * *

Several suggestions:

1. Go back to a two-party system where the parties espouse clear ideologies. This will assure a "majority winner," and sideline "*balimbing*" candidates and politicians.

2. All politicians vying for vice mayor or higher position must have at least a college degree. This will minimize the possibility of officials being elected based on popularity but lacking the educational background needed to be effective in the complex world of politics and governance.

3. Only people who pay taxes should be given the right to vote. Those who don't pay taxes shouldn't be given the right to choose who will run the government. If you are not a taxpayer, then you have not contributed your share to the government and, therefore, you should not have a say on how government must be run.

4. Review the legislative powers of the Senate and the House of Representatives. They conduct too many probes, supposedly in aid of legislation but actually just for grandstanding.

5. Minimize technicality issues that allow the courts more reasons to drop cases. We shouldn't emphasize technicalities, as these allow suspects and other respondents an easy way out, even if they did violate the law.

6. Lessen corruption in the Bureau of Internal Revenue by allowing individuals to submit receipts as basis for claiming tax-deductible expenses, instead of the present setup in which tax deductions are based on the taxpayer's marital status and number of children. By allowing individuals to include personal receipts for tax deductions, we will encourage the issuance of official receipts, and there will be more VAT collections, as almost every sale will be declared by individuals and businesses. Even the Bureau of Customs will toe the line, as importers will need to have their imports properly declared and they can use the receipts for proper tax deduction.—**Christopher Co (via e-mail)**

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5TH ERUPTION SINCE MARCH

Bulusan spews ash anew; villagers given face masks

SORSOGON CITY—THE PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE OF VOLCANOLOGY and Seismology (Phivolcs) warned of a major eruption of the Bulusan Volcano after its crater belched ash clouds Wednesday.

Bulusan spewed ash nearly 2 km high, prompting authorities to raise the alert level to 2 from 1 ordered in March when ash first began flowing from its crater.

"We are seeing an increasing frequency of ash explosions," Renato Solidum, director of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, said.

Solidum warned residents in Sorsogon not to venture within a 4-km zone of the 1,559-meter volcano because of fears of sudden explosions. "We raised alert level 2 last night," he said as a measure of precaution.

At level 3 an explosion is considered possible, at level 4 it is seen as likely and at level 5, the highest alert, an eruption has occurred with lava flows or ash columns reaching 6 km.

Bulusan, one of the six most active volcanoes in the country, has had five ash eruptions since March.

In nearby Casiguran town, thousands of face masks were distributed to residents after volcanic ash fell on homes in the coastal community's 25 villages.

Schools were closed and the Office of Civil Defense urged residents not to drink ground water because of possible contamination.

Ash fall was also reported in nearby Juban town and officials said as many as 50,000 people would be evacuated in case of a major volcanic eruption.

Television showed images of people cleaning their yards, training water hoses to wash away grayish ash from plants and roofs of their homes.

"It's itchy and hurts the nose," said a woman.

Volcanologist Ed Laguerta said they were keeping the danger zone. "There's a possibility that these little explosions can become more frequent," he said.

"That's what we're watching out for, the changes in the character of the explosions."

The Philippines, like neighboring Indonesia, lies in an area of the Pacific basin that is vulnerable to earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

Mount Pinatubo erupted in 1991 in the century's biggest blast, burying dozens of villages under tons of mud after lying dormant for 600 years.

More than 800 people died in the wake of Pinatubo's eruption, mostly from diseases in overcrowded evacuation camps.

Laguerta said magma was rising closer to the volcano's crater, similar to what happened before the 1918-1920 eruption. ***Reuters with a report from Bobby Q. Labalan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

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ROUNDUP

Reyes cites mining company

REYES

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes has hailed a mining company in South Cotabato for "taking care" of the *lumad* communities affected by its project and the environment. Reyes recently visited Sagittarius Mines Inc. (SMI) in Tampakan, South Cotabato to witness the signing of a growth and cooperation agreement between officials of Kiblawan in Davao del Sur, Tampakan and Colombio in Sultan Kudarat, which are within the company's area of operations. The SMI-initiated agreement aimed to improve the lives of people in the three towns. Reyes said he was happy that SMI had already started providing community development projects although it had yet to start mining activities there. ***Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Rape tops Or. Mindoro crimes

CITY OF CALAPAN—Rape topped the criminal cases recorded by the Oriental Mindoro police from January to May. The number of rape cases reached 30, but women advocates believe it could be higher if the unreported cases are included. Cases of physical injuries numbered 25; murder, 22; homicide, 18; robbery, 10, and theft, 1. Police recorded a monthly crime solution efficiency of 85-94 percent. ***Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Tiwi projects get WB grants

TIWI, Albay—Two local community projects were among the 59 winners in a recent World Bank competition on project proposals and development ideas in the country. The WB-sponsored "Panibagong Paraan 2006" awarded grants to the aquatic resource management proposal, "Seaweed Production and Environmental Protection of the Curangon Shoal," and the education reform project, "Magurang na, Maestra Pa." From around 1,000 entries all over the country, 80 finalists were chosen. Ched Arzadon, a local project representative, won first prize in the slogan contest for her entry "Ang Pag-unlad ay Wagi Kung Lahat ay Kasali." ***Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Malaria microscopy training

BROOKE'S POINT, Palawan—A refresher training on malaria microscopy is being conducted here up to June 16 by the Department of Health's Malaria Control Program, with the support of the Global Fund for Malaria and the Kilusang Ligtas Malaria (KLM). Palawan has the biggest number of barangay microscopists in the country with more than 300, said Dr. Dorin Bustos, a medical specialist of the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine. In 2001, barangay microscopists were mobilized by the KLM, the provincial government, and Pilipinas Shell Foundation to control malaria in Palawan. The ongoing training aims to improve techniques and raise standards of malaria diagnosis. ***Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Number coding for tricyles

CITY OF CALAPAN—A number-coding scheme for tricycles is being implemented here to ease traffic and increase the income of drivers and operators. According to a city resolution, those with license plate numbers whose last digits end in 1 or 2 are banned from plying their route on Mondays, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.; 3 or 4, Tuesdays; 5 or 6, Wednesdays; 7 or 8, Thursdays, and 9 or 0, Fridays. The scheme is not enforced on weekends. Task Force Komit is monitoring its implementation. ***Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

'Caloy' lumber for reconstruction

CITY OF CALAPAN—Storm "Caloy" left the province with a huge volume of lumber from fallen trees. Juan de la Cruz, provincial environment and natural resources officer, advised that no permit was needed from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources if the lumber would be used to reconstruct houses. But he said a certification for that purpose must be secured from the municipality where the tree was uprooted. If the lumber is sold commercially, it will be confiscated, De la Cruz warned. ***Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

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2nd Level, Tutuban Centermall 1
Tel. Nos. 252-8185/230-4185

DAR says it's on track on land distribution

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—THE DEPARTMENT OF Agrarian Reform in Eastern Visayas reported that it is on track in its accomplishment target for the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (Carp) for the region.

Homer Tobias, DAR regional director, said that since Carp was launched in 1988, DAR has distributed 329,917 hectares of agricultural lands, representing 87 percent of its target coverage of 378,747 ha.

The program has so far benefited 184,841 farmers in the region who received certificates of land ownership awards (Cloas) as proofs of ownership of the land given to them.

Tobias said that while he was optimistic that the DAR program was on track, the program's implementation still faces problems like the strong resistance of some landowners.

Tobias identified the western part of Leyte as the most contentious area in the region. It is where vast tracts of land, mostly owned by the politically influential Veloso and Larrazabal clans, are located.

Based on the records of the DAR regional office, out of its target of 185,808 ha of land in Leyte, 148,154 ha, or 80 percent, have so far been placed under the program since it was implemented in 1988. At least 89,808 farmer-beneficiaries were given Cloas.

The level of achievement in Leyte is, however, the lowest among the six provinces in the region.

Tobias said the DAR was trying its best to convince landowners to drop their resistance and allow the government to place their land under the program, which will end by 2008.

In contrast, the regional DAR office was able to accomplish a 100 percent performance in Eastern Samar with 45,285 ha of land awarded to 27,035 families.

TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

SUN RELIANT
The abundance of sunlight in many parts of the country is the driving force behind many industries, including the small, but thriving trade of drying fish. A fisherman in San Fabian, Pangasinan uses his backyard to dry fish caught from the Cayanga River, a major source of fish in the town.

Mayor says he didn't move school

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—THE MAYOR OF Bokod town assailed provincial and education officials here for believing reports that he had transferred the administration of an elementary school to nearby Kayapa, Nueva Vizcaya.

Appearing before the provincial board, Mayor Raymundo Celino said he "merely recognized" the authority of Kayapa officials over the Naswak Elementary School which, he noted, "was never a part of Bokod."

"There was nothing to turn over because Sitio Naswak is politically and historically within the territory of Kayapa," he said. "Documents would show that Naswak was never part of Bokod but Kayapa."

The board earlier summoned Celino to explain the alleged turnover that happened on May 15 in Kayapa without the blessings of provincial and education officials.

"There was no turnover. I only recognized the authority and jurisdiction of Kayapa over Sitio Naswak and the elementary school there," Celino said.

He admitted the Bokod and Kayapa officials, led by Mayor Antonio Dupiano, met on May 15 but not for the school's turnover.

"We met to formalize an agreement that Bokod is now ready to cease exercising administrative and supervisory power over Naswak and for Kayapa to assume all political responsibilities over Sitio Naswak," he said.

"In fact, the agreement turned out to be positive for Bokod since Kayapa agreed to construct three small school buildings within Bokod worth P900,000.00"

He said the ceremony to recognize Kayapa's authority over Naswak was made after Kayapa officials passed a resolution expressing their intention to exercise jurisdiction over Naswak.

Celino asked the board and the province's education officials to cease recognizing the school as part of Benguet since it would be waste of money and resources.

"It is legally and morally wrong for Benguet to maintain a school outside of its jurisdiction," Celino said, adding that the salaries of the school's three teachers could be used to pay other teachers in other remote areas of Bokod.

Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Gov't office can't check pesticide use

DAVAO CITY—THE FERTILIZER AND PESTICIDES Authority (FPA) in Southern Mindanao said it lacks the capacity to determine whether or not banana plantations here were using chemicals properly.

Estrella Laquinta, FPA director, said they only rely on the self-policing power of banana companies.

"It is true that we have difficulty in monitoring the pesticide use by these companies because we don't have the capacity. For lack of manpower and enough resources, we cannot really do the job," Laquinta told a forum held here during the World Environment Day on Monday.

Environmental groups have been pressing the FPA to monitor the use of pesticides in banana plantations saying its excessive use was harmful.

Environmental groups also said studies reveal that people who have been exposed to pesticides are often found with cancer and other diseases that are difficult to cure.

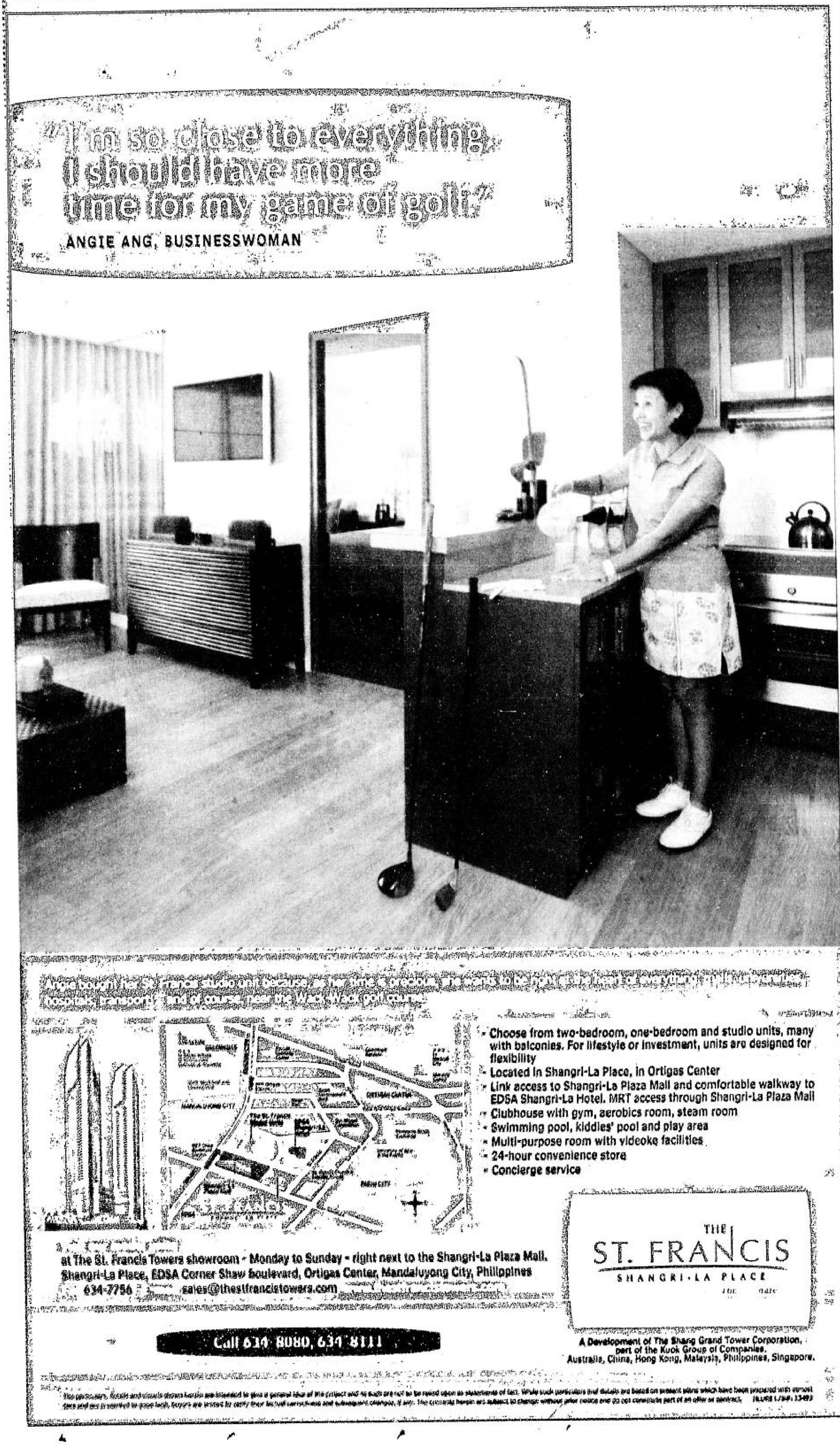
Laquinta said they want to check if banana companies here were not indiscriminate in their use of pesticides but the lack of resources had always prevented them from doing so.

But academician Dr. Antonio Obsioma said the FPA should not use as excuse its lack of manpower and resources.

He said the agency was mandated by law to protect the people against the deadly effects of pesticides.

Obsioma said if the FPA was serious in its mandate, it could always coordinate with other government agencies.

Jeffrey Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau



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NGO hails DENR logging raid in Sierra Madre

Tribe harassed, threatened by loggers

LUCENA CITY—TASK FORCE SIERRA Madre, a Church-based multisectoral group advocating the mountain's protection, has commended the swift action of the National Anti-Environmental Crime Task Force against illegal logging operations based in a Sierra Madre village in Tanay, Rizal last week.

"Their action brings us fresh courage to continue our efforts to preserve the environment for the present and future generation," Fr. Pete Montallana, TFSM chair, said in a letter addressed to Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes.

Police and forest officials from the DENR local office in Real town in northern Quezon seized a total of 4,135 pieces of undocumented forest products measuring about 33.54 cubic meters in Barangay Libjo, Infanta town Wednesday.

The seized items include narra, yakal, tanguile and red lauan wood species.

Antonio Diwa, local environment chief, said government forces confiscated the lumber from a suspected illegal sawmill of one Susan Avellano based on a search warrant issued by Judge Stephen Cruz of the Regional Trial Court in Lucena.

"Our main goal is to totally stop any form of illegal logging operations in Reina (Real-Infanta-General Nakar) area. With the cooperation of vigilant citizens and nongovernment organizations, we're slowly inching toward our target," Diwa said.

Chief Insp. Roger Fuentes, head of the raiding team from the Police Regional Intelligence and Investigation Division, said the information on the illegal forest products was tipped off by a concerned citizen.

"We expect more confiscation in the following days as more (pieces of) information are coming in," Fuentes said in a mobile phone interview.

Montallana said: "It (illegal logging campaign) is not an easy task since so many are taking advantage of the impoverished situation (sic) in the area but together with DENR officials, with conviction to preserve and protect the environment, we can do something."

However, he appealed to government authorities to help the Agta natives residing in their mountain settlements in Sitio Baykuran, Barangay Pagsangahan in General Nakar town, who are being threatened by illegal loggers after the government's successful operation.

In a press conference held at the office of Tanggol Kalikasan here, Leony Buendicho, an Agta tribal leader, narrated how her community was being harassed and threatened by known illegal loggers in Sierra Madre.

> 'Their action gives us fresh courage to continue our efforts to preserve the environment'

"We were told that we will be killed once we set foot in Barangay Daraitan in Tanay. The illegal loggers suspected us of revealing their operation to the authorities. But we only accompanied GMA-7 television crew in their coverage of the mountain," Buendicho said.

The stockpile of illegally cut flitches of various sizes from different hardwood species in Daraitan were discovered by Tanggol Kalikasan and GMA-7 TV crewmen last month.

The forest products were illegally cut inside the reservation area of the indigenous tribe in the Sierra Madre and were being hauled down by horses.

Jay Lim, forest protection program coordinator of Tanggol Kalikasan—a nationwide public interest environmental law office, revealed that at least 30 illegal power saws were being operated inside the tribe's reservation area.

"Most of them were being operated by lowlanders under the employ of big capitalist illegal loggers. Ironically, some of the tribe members were in cahoots with illegal loggers," Lim said. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Marathon hearings set for Aurora slay

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—MARATHON HEARINGS for the trial of a mayor charged with the murder of a publisher in Aurora last year would begin on June 27, the judge handling the case said.

Judge Armando Yanga said he would conduct the trial of Dingalan Mayor Jaime Ylarde the whole day of every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday until July 31.

Yanga said he could not hold trials on Thursdays and Friday because his courtroom, Regional Trial Court Branch 66 in Baler, Aurora, was being used by RTC Branch 96.

"This will be a speedy trial as the Supreme Court has ordered for all cases," said Yanga, who is currently handling 88 cases.

Lawyers of Ylarde are presenting 14 witnesses who would disprove the role of the mayor in the killing of Starline Times Recorder publisher Philip Agustin on May 10, 2005.

Prosecutors, on the other hand, have lined up 13 witnesses who would try to pin Ylarde as the mastermind in the murder of Agustin, one of 42 Filipino journalists killed during the five years of the Arroyo administration.

The mayor's co-accused—Nilo Morete and Manuel Alday—are still at large. Yanga had issued warrants for their arrests on May 16.

Morete has sent surrender feelers to the National Bureau of Investigation but has not specified a date when he would surface. Ylarde, on the other hand, surrendered to Yanga on May 22 and is now detained at the provincial jail in Baler. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Standard Form Number : SF-GOOD-05
Revised on : July 28, 2004

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **LGU-Kalilangan, Bukidnon**, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/ manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project.

Name of project : *Rehab / Improvement of Macatol-Panicupon FMR*
Location : *LGU, Kalilangan, Bukidnon*
Brief Description : *Purchase of construction materials, equipment rental, warehouse and labor*
Approved Budget for the Contract : *Php 5,742,778.88*
Contract Duration
Delivery Period : *Immediate delivery (maximum of 15 working days) of contract*

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass-fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

	ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1	Issuance of Bid Documents	June 9-22, 2006
2	Pre-bid Conference	June 14, 2006
3	Opening of Bids	June 26, 9:00 AM
4	Bid Evaluation	June 26, 9:00 AM
5	Post-qualification	July 3, 2006
6	Notice of Award	July 18, 2006

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non refundable amount of Php ________ to the Municipal Treasurer of LGU-Kalilangan, Bukidnon.

The LGU-Kalilangan, Bukidnon assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved;

(Sgd.) SATURNINO M. TORRES
MCR/BAC Chairman

(PDI – June 9 & 16, 2006)

UNDP

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Contracting of Consulting Services for
Philippine Efficient Lighting Market Transformation Project

The Development Support Services Center (DSSC) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites local consultants to apply for eligibility and to bid for the subcontract on Policy Study on Lamp Waste Management of the project "UNDP-GEF-DOE Project Philippine Efficient Lighting Market Transformation Project (PELMATP)".

The Philippine Efficient Lighting Market Transformation Project (PELMATP), implemented by the Philippines' Department of Energy (DOE), is intended to address the barriers to widespread utilization of energy efficient lighting (EEL) systems in the Philippines. It is aimed at contributing to the realization of the country's sustainable development objectives and its goal in reducing GHG emissions in the energy sector. It will specifically focus on the promotion of EELs energy efficient version of linear fluorescent lamps (i.e., slim tube triphosphor coated), CFLs, high intensity discharge (HID) lamps, ballasts (low loss electromagnetic and electronic) and energy efficient luminaires. The project objectives will be achieved with the implementation of specific barrier removal programs that will involve: (1) updating of policies, standards and guidelines on lighting applications; (2) institutional and technical capacity building; (3) consumer education and information dissemination; (4) development and implementation of appropriate financing mechanisms; and (5) mitigating environmental impacts of the widespread utilization of EELs.

Consistent with Component 5: EEL Waste Management Assistance Program, PELMATP in partnership with Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) aims to address the potential negative impacts of the widespread use of EELs through the formulation and implementation national and local guidelines for managing mercury-containing lamp wastes that will enter the country's waste stream.

To be able to accomplish this objective, the project requires the services of a subcontractor who shall undertake the subcontract on **Policy Study on Lamp Waste Management**, a comprehensive and extensive study on the potential of lamp waste management in the country, discussing its issues, constraints and other areas of concern.

The policy study and the accompanying proposed policy recommendations shall serve as inputs to the DENR-EMB in the formulation of policy guidelines and programs for lamp waste management. It will also lead to the market development for lamp wastes, setting up of standardized procedures for testing mercury content in lamps and the development of information, education and communication (IEC) materials and a guidebook which will be used as reference by those implementing solid and hazardous waste management programs.

For interested parties, Bid Documents (Eligibility Requirements, Instructions to Bidders and Terms of Reference) may be secured personally, upon payment of a non-refundable amount of PhP 1,000.00 from the following address:

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United Nations Development Programme
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6819 Ayala Avenue corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
Tel. No. 632 901 0273 / 901 0271
Fax No. 632 901 0200 / 889 7177

The abovementioned Bid Documents will be released to all interested participants starting 13 June 2006 to 19 June 2006 only. The Bid Documents shall contain all instructions on the rules, procedures, dates and other schedules for the pre-bid conference and opening of bid envelopes, as well as further details on the scope of services required.

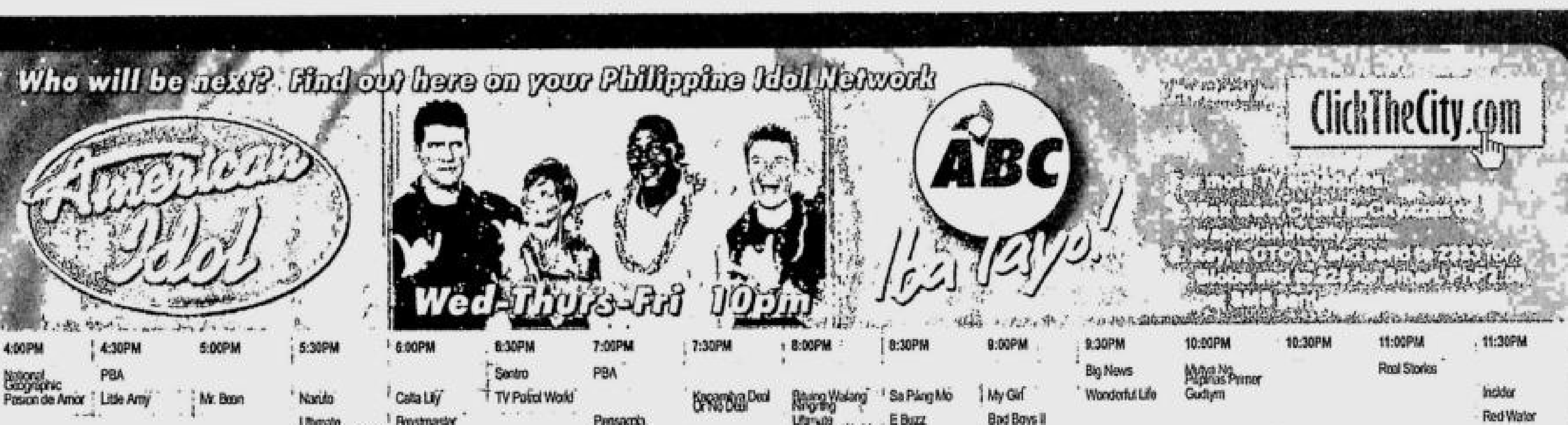
UNDP reserves the right to reject any or all the bids, waive any defect or informality therein, accept the bid and award the contract to the most advantageous offer to the UNDP, for and in behalf of the Department of Energy. UNDP assumes no responsibility to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred for the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **ETHELIND B. CAPUNO**
Manager, DSSC

(PDI—June 9, 2006)

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE

Friday, June 9, 2006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ABC 5				National Geographic	PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	Mutya Ng Pilipinas Primer		Real Stories	
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Little Amy	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Calla Lily	TV Patrol World		Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Bituing Walang Ningning	Sa Piling Mo	My Girl	Wonderful Life	Gudtym			Insider
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Cartoon Network	Police Academy	Richie Rich	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi	Codename: Kids Next Door The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy- Double Episodes	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons - Double Episodes		Power Rangers Ninja Storm	PokeMon	Dica	Gundam Seed Destiny	The Simpsons		Mucha Lucha!	Duck Dodgers	Justice League	Samurai Jack
Cinema One		Gaano Kadalas Ang Minsan				Bukas Na Lang Kita Mamahalin				American Adobo				Batas Ng Lansangan				[illegible]	
Cinemax	Zulu (2:25PM)				Shirley Valentine (4:35PM)				One False Move (6:20PM)			Out For Justice			Something To Talk About			Love Walked In (11:15PM)	
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	World News Asia	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		Surface		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Crime Scene Academy	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Crossing Jordan	
Discovery Channel	Connect	Extreme Engineering		Ancient Egyptians		How Do They Do It		Stay Alive		Rides		American Chopper		How Do They Do It		Psychic Witness		Crime Night	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Un-believable Bunny	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Brandy & Mr Whiskers	America's Funniest Home Video	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN					World Cup Focus 2006	NBA Finals					Sportscenter Germany	Germany Tonight	NBA Access w/ Ahmad Rashad	U.S. Open Golf C'ship		Sportscenter Asia	NBA Finals		
ETC		Veronica Mars 2		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Joan Of Arcadia 2		American Dreams 3		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr. Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	Trading Spouses		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	The Good Code: The Natural Law	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	The Donut Man	Angel Focus	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Backstage	The Gospel Of Life in Health	Defending Life	Life on The Rock Encore		Daily Mass Live		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	Parable	EWTN Bookmark	St. Thomas Aquinas In Today's World	Fr. John Corapi	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Agawin Mo Man Ang Lahat (2:45PM)	Now and Forever (3:15PM)	Endless Love 1 Autumn In My Heart By Popular Demand		Saiyuki	Dragonball Z	Gokusan	24 Oras		Captain Barbell	Majika	I Luv NY	Love Of The Condor Heroes	Jewel In The Palace		Bubble Gang			Saksi
Hallmark Channel		McLeod's Daughters V		Frankie And Hazel (4:05PM)				Bewitched	The Nanny	Judging Amy		Sue Thomas: F.B. Eye III		Hustle		They Shoot Divas, Don't They			Hustle (11:45PM)
HBO		Vanity Fair (3:15PM)					The Fifth Corner			The Punisher				Daylight				Sky Captain And The World Of Tomorrow	
Hero TV	Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Super Gals	Combattler V	Gundam Seed	Iron Man 28	Beyblade G-Revolution	Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Naruto	Mirmo de Pon	Inuyasha	Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Super Gals	Gundam Seed
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	TV Infomercial		Japan Video Topics/ Arnis		ME TV		PTA Bud Of The Philippines		Global Family Songs/ Arnis	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Late Show David Letterman		Jack In The Box				Megas XLR	Beat The Geeks	Mad TV		That 70s Show	Always Sunny In Philadelphia	The Late Show David Letterman		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Premium Blend	Reno 911	Insomniac W. Dave Attell
Lifestyle Network	Design Remix	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	Decorating Cents	Food Network Special		Boy Meets Grill	Intimate Portrait		Behind The Velvet Ropes	Martha		Simply Wine With Andrea Immer	The Great Adventure	Iron Chef America	
MTV Philippines		Boiling Points		MTV Asia: Jamie Foxx	MTV Hits (with SMS)					Get Spotted	MTV Summer Moments with Rafa	MTV News	Hanging Out In Boracay	MTV Divas		Boiling Points		Summer Sounds [illegible] in Boracay	
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYXILOG	MYX Finds	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Club MYX	MYX Versions	Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXILOG
National Geographic	Wildlife Diary	Nat Geographic Specials		Violent Earth: Tornado		Predators At War		Top 5 - World of Hoaxes		WOW! Katrina [illegible]		About Asia		Nat Geographic Specials		Violent Earth: Tornado		Built for the Kill: Snakes	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		[illegible]	Pinoy Ka, Mahal Mo Ba Siya?	Teledyaryo W/ Bia Tanco & Angelique Lazo		PGE A Dialogue W/ DSS [illegible]		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Teledyaryo Final Edition				[illegible] OCW With Susan K			
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold!	SpongeBob SquarePants	Rocket Power	Four Eyes	SpongeBob SquarePants [illegible] Right On Top	My Life As A Teenage Robot	All Grown Up! Just For Kicks Special Nick Kicks	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	New Era Avatar: The Legend Of Aang	Drake & Josh	Unfabulous	Romeo	Naturally Sadie	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Akala Mo				All The Way				Bilib Ako Sa 'Yo		[illegible]				[illegible]		
Qtv	[illegible]		Scrapped Princess	Kaleido Star	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Magic Ring	Irene	Noel	Project 11	Ganda Ng Lola Ko		News On Q	Love Life		Irene	Over The Green Fields
RPN 9						Global Window	RPN Aksyon News	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider							Newswatch Now	TV Greats On Friday		
SBN 21				New Life TV Shopping				Winner TV Shopping		Sony Music Video		Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Shepherds Voice		SBN Music Video	
Solar Sports					2006 Uber Cup [illegible]					Sagupaan	2006 NBA Finals [illegible]						Solar Sports Desk	2006 Hitachi [illegible] Women's Club	
Sports Plus		Allianz Cup Highlights		Neighborhood [illegible] 400 Highlights		FIFA Preview Series 10	Nopi Tunervision	French Open '06 Day 12 Highlights		French Open '06 [illegible]							BD Cancun	Wild Side	Golf Today
Star Movies			The Dead Will Tell (3:45PM)	Honey, I Blew Up The Kid				Opening Night (6:25PM)	[illegible] (7:25PM)			[illegible]			The [illegible] (10:45PM)				
Star World	Arrested Development	The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Ed		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	TNA Wrestling		Third Watch/ Love Asia		NYPD Blue		Seinfeld	Walker Texas Ranger
Studio 23	Bewitched	Naruto				Dance Idol	Teen Titans	The Batman	Justice League Unlimited	Wazzup Wazzup	Barkada Nights			[illegible] (9:15PM)		News Central	Oprah		Ready World

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

SC stops Comelec on order vs Legazpi City mayor

LEGAZPI CITY—THE SUPREME Court has stopped the Commission on Elections from enforcing its order to Mayor Noel Rosal to vacate his post in favor of Michael Victor Imperial, who was declared winner by the poll body in the 2004 elections.

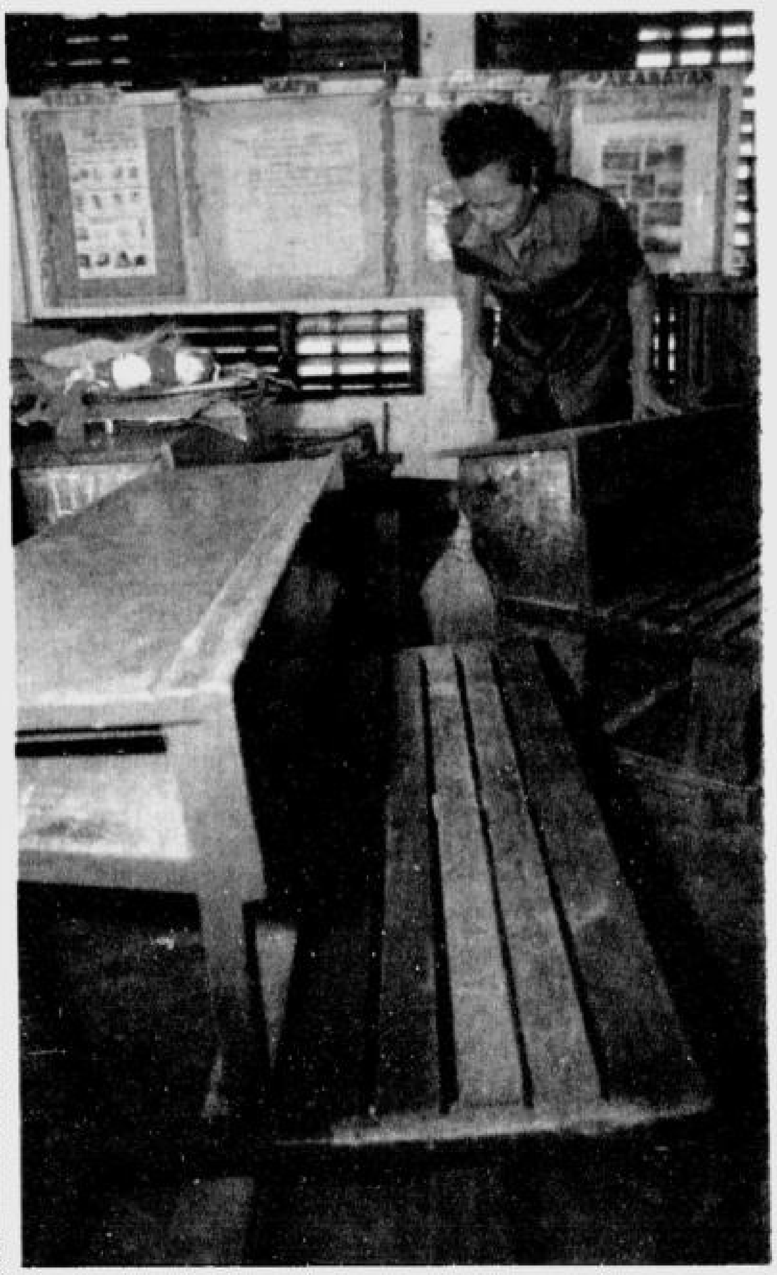
The high court issued the temporary restraining order on June 7 as it granted Rosal's request for a status quo. The order was signed by clerk of court Ma. Luisa Villarama, on the authority of Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban.

The Comelec *en banc* affirmed on May 29 the decision of its second division that Imperial was the duly elected mayor of the city, having garnered 33,861 votes as against Rosal's 31,673.

The city's board of canvassers had declared Rosal the winner with 44,277 votes over Imperial who got 33,275.

Of Rosal's votes, 14,067 were invalidated by the Comelec division, composed of Commissioners Florentino Tuazon and Meloh Sadain, whose term of office expired early February.

"I thank the Supreme Court for granting my appeal based on its merits and I hope it will be enlightened by giving the teachers a chance to present the true picture," Rosal said. *Ephraim Aguilar, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

GRADE 3 teacher Paz Orantes, of the Piedad Central Elementary School in Toril, Davao City, cleans her classroom in a scene that was repeated nationwide prior to the opening of classes.

100,000 pupils to benefit from free lunch plan

By Romy G. Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

'...children will learn better if they are well fed...'

DUMAGUETE CITY—STARTING JULY, MORE than 100,000 pupils in public elementary schools in Negros Oriental will be given free lunch every school day.

Aleli Abne, Negros Oriental Schools Division superintendent, said the massive feeding program, estimated to cost P40 million, would provide free lunch to some 135,000 pupils studying in the division's 527 public elementary schools.

Rep. Herminio Teves, who pushed for the program, said he was given assurance by Representatives Jacinto Paras and Emilio Macias II of financial support.

The provincial government is also expected to support the project as it has been implementing a feeding program, although not as comprehensive as the one to be implemented this school year, Abne said.

Poor grades

Abne said Teves proposed the program out of concern over the dismal performance of public elementary school pupils of the province in different regional, national and international achievement tests.

Teves said children would learn better if fed well. He also wants to make the program his legacy to the province, according to a source close to the lawmaker.

Abne said that with the feeding program, the pupils would not only be served nutritious meals for lunch but would also stay in school for their afternoon classes.

In the past, she said, many pupils, especially those living in remote areas, would no longer show up for afternoon classes after they go home at noon because of the distance.

Under the program, Abne said pupils will have a 45-minute reading session after lunch break.

Abne said that aside from the financial assistance from the congressmen and the provincial government, the schools division hoped to sustain the program though its earnings from its Gulayan at Palaisdaan Alay sa Kabataan (GPAK) program.

The GPAK program, which has won for the province the Galing Pook Award for 2005, will be intensified this year, Abne said.

Fish, vegetable income

She said individual public elementary schools were expected to generate income from the sale of vegetables and fish grown or raised under the GPAK. The program has been institutionalized by the provincial government in all public schools in Negros Oriental.

In some areas, transportation costs are the concern of students.

In Baguio City, students said the fare discount given them was fair and they were opposing attempts to freeze or discard the discounts.

About 20 students joined members of the transport group Piston in a noise barrage directed at a gasoline station near the Igorot Park to rally people into campaigning for the abolition of the oil deregulation law, which they said was the cause of increasing oil prices.

With a report from Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

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CBCP calls for stop to killings of militants

Bishops say human life should be kept sacred

By Jerome Dalipe III and Cyrain Cabueñas
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—THE CATHOLIC Bishops Conference of the Philippines has called for the defense of human life amid the spate of killings of activists, journalists, defenders of the poor suspected as communists and even policemen and Army soldiers.

In pastoral statement titled "Let Us Keep Human Life Sacred," CBCP president and Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo said the bishops had been disturbed by the killings, particularly cited the death of Sotero Llamas, who was identified as a peace adviser.

Such alarming number of victims "is a sad commentary of our country and government which want to abolish death penalty," said the statement, which was released Tuesday.

Bishop Leonardo Medroso also led the clergy of the Diocese of Borongan in Eastern Samar yesterday in denouncing the series of killings that had terrified the capital town and elsewhere in the past few months.

Medroso said the government should now take a serious look on this long bypassed issue. "It's quite ironic that President Macapagal-Arroyo has been pushing for the abolition of the death penalty and yet death occurs everywhere, killers go scot-free, and killings remain unsolved," he added.

Eastern Samar slays

"We Filipinos value life. But if we indeed have a high regard for life, then why is it treated so cheaply among us?" Medroso and the Borongan clergy said in a statement.

They raised concern that the killings and attempted assassinations of militants on Samar Island had been "well-planned, systematic and relentlessly focused" on specific targets.

Medroso issued the statement in the wake of Sunday's killing of David Costuna, 48, a member of the party-list group Bayan Muna and chair of Barangay Balud in Borongan, and his drinking companion, Arcadio Macale, 60, president of the local barangay agrarian reform council.

Costuna and Macale were attending the wake of Costuna's godchild in Balud when they were shot several times with an M-16 rifle by a man wearing a bonnet.

Since last year, 10 militant leaders in Eastern Visayas have been shot dead by still unidentified assailants.

Medroso said he and the clergy shared the moral stand of the CBCP that "it is not right that people be killed simply because their political belief differ from ours."

Message to killers

Their statement was addressed to the perpetrators of the killings, political leaders, police and military officers, members of left-leaning groups, and ordinary citizens.

To the killers, it said: "Listen to the Lord in the voice of your conscience, uphold human life, and submit yourselves to the demands of justice."

It called on the government, police and military authorities to "dispel the cloud of doubt and suspicion that have overshadowed your reputation in the wake of the unsolved killings and be true protectors of the people."

Those in left-leaning movements were told to also uphold the sanctity of human life because "respect for (it) is not only the obligation of those who profess faith in God but also of those who believe that the right to life is a fundamental human right."

Medroso and his clergy asked the public to shun indifference.

LEFTIST militants bring their protests to the doorsteps of the police headquarters in Camp Crame, decrying police inefficiency in the wake of a series of killings of their colleagues, mostly in the provinces. The militants blamed the killings on a government policy to declare leftists as terrorists. BULLIT MARQUEZ/AP

The death of an Eastern Samareño or a fellow human being "diminishes us all for we are just one human family," they said.

Lagdameo, for his part, said the CBCP was not only concerned about the victims who had not been or were not given chances to defend themselves in court, but also for their immediate families who were "suddenly and unhappily left orphans."

"Whoever are the perpetrators, and whatever is the cause, the victims-irrespective of any ideology they profess—are still subjects of human rights and are entitled to due process in an unbiased court," said Lagdameo.

Cycle of violence

The CBCP head said it was not right that people were killed simply because they had different "political beliefs" or were suspected of being "subversives" or of plotting against the government.

"The killings leave deep scars on the memory of people especially members of their families which no amount of talk about national security will completely erase. This is a sin against life, a sin against human dignity. Human life, whose ever it is, is sacred. Retribution and vengeance simply perpetuates the cycle of violence," stressed Lagdameo.

He added: "If we are to work out our salvation and transformation as a nation, we must begin with our Gospel faith which tells us what our perspective on human life and our task in its regard."

Quoting the late Pope John Paul II, Lagdameo reiterated a call to uphold the sacredness of life.

"Do not kill! Do not prepare destruction and extermination for men! Think of your brothers and sisters who are suffering hunger and misery! Respect each one's dignity and freedom!" said Lagdameo.

Disruptions reported as result of attack alert

JOLO, SULU—THE ALERT ISSUED by the US military for a supposed attack by the Abu Sayyaf here has inconvenienced Sulu residents.

Among them was Dr. Emily Jalani, chief of the Pangutaran hospital.

Jalani said she was trying to enter the Integrated Provincial Hospital Office (Ipho) on Monday when Philippine Marines barred her "because of security threats."

"I was supposed to attend an emergency appointment," Jalani said in disgust.

A police officer told the INQUIRER that because of the alert, classes were also disrupted.

Pendatun Madjilun, who works for a Chinese-Filipino businessman, said his boss was very worried about the advisory.

"What if it was true? They could become the target," Madjilun said.

Residents of the port area also complained that they could not fetch water because the police headquarters, where the faucet is, was also declared off limits to civilians.

They said policemen would not allow them inside the headquarters.

"It's all in their minds," Amirul Ekong, who begged but failed to get water, said.

Broadcaster Sally Jamasali of Radyo ng Bayan said she was held at the gate of the police headquarters when she tried to enter Monday morning.

The radio station is inside the police compound and Jamasali was on her way to host her daily program.

SSgt. Shouki Forbes, information officer of the Joint Special Operations Task Force, said the threat was real and that Filipino and American security forces were just adopting stricter measures.

Reporters covering the visit of the US ship Mercy Mission saw American doctors, health care givers, engineers and technicians, moving around in heavy protective coverings.

"It's for their protection, and they are used to that," said Army Capt. Abe Sirajan, information officer of the Joint Task Force Comet and chief of the Jolo Internal Defense Force (JIDF).

Panglima Estino Mayor Munib Estino said the adoption of the "unnecessary security measure was sending a wrong message to other people."

"Who would ever believe that the seeds of peace were planted in Sulu when you see all uniformed personnel, whether Filipinos or Americans, in heavy metal gear moving around town?" Estino said.

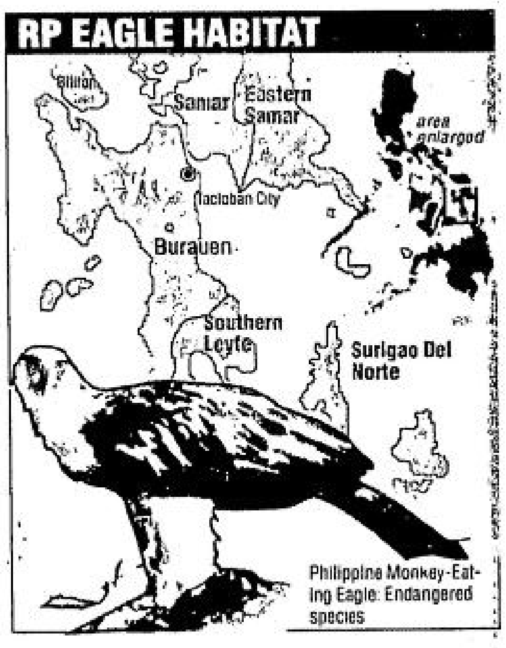
The US military, quoting multiple sources, said the Abu Sayyaf, a group with links to the terror network al-Qaida, was planning to launch attacks on American troopers in Jolo within 48 hours. *Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

A PHOTO handout of the US Army shows US Navy Lt. Robert Senko, of the hospital ship USNS Mercy, checking the eye of patient Wella Laurente during a medical mission at the Kumalarang Elementary School in Isabela, Basilan, one of the sites of the US armed forces' medical mission. THERENCE KOH/AFP

Philippine Eagle sighted in forests of Leyte national park

By Vicente S. Labro
PDI Visayas Bureau

RP EAGLE HABITAT



Philippine Monkey-Eating Eagle: Endangered species

TACLOBAN CITY—Despite the destruction wrought on its habitat, the Philippine Eagle continues to soar the skies of Eastern Visayas.

An eagle watch team of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, which has been monitoring the whereabouts of the majestic bird, said it would verify reports that a Philippine Eagle was sighted in Burauen town in Leyte.

Arnulito Viojan, team leader of the Regional Eagle Watch Team, said the team was shifting its search of the national bird from rugged Samar Island to a forested area in Leyte province after they received reports of the national bird's presence in the vicinity of the Mahagnao National Park in Barangay Mahagnao.

Viojan said the first report the team received was of a bigger serpent eagle in October 2004. People said they saw the eagle flying or perched on trees in the Mahagnao area.

"On June 24, 2005, I saw this (bird) but only in passing. It was really a big bird and there is a big possibility that it was a Philippine Eagle," Viojan said.

In March, the team conducted a survey in Burauen after receiving reports of the eagle's presence there. But the team did not encounter the bird.

Viojan told the INQUIRER the team would again conduct a survey in Mahagnao this month after the celebration of Philippine Eagle Week on June 4-10.

The celebration, which is mandated by Presidential Proclamation No. 79 dated Feb. 24, 1999, seeks to "instill into the minds of the Filipino people the importance of the Philippine Eagle as a biological indicator of the forest ecosystems, as a national symbol and as a unique heritage."

More than a dozen Philippine Eagles were reported to have been sighted in the region since the group was organized in 1993. But so far, the team had confirmed only five of the sightings, all on Samar Island.

These were in Mt. Nahulopan in Barangay San Rafael, Taft, Eastern Samar; Mt. Huraw in San Jose de Buan, Samar; Mt. Loblob in San Rafael near the boundary of Taft and Sulat towns, both in Eastern Samar; Mt. Guintubli in Barangay San Miguel, Maslog, Eastern Samar; and Mt. Capotoan in Barangay San Isidro, Las Navas, Northern Samar.

It was on the island that a British naturalist got the first specimen of the mighty eagle. On June 13, 1896, a male Philippine Eagle was recovered in the jungles of Bonga, an interior village of Paranas, Samar. Six months later, the specimen found its way to London where British ornithologists saw for the first time the majestic Philippine Eagle, which became to be known as the monkey-eating eagle.

Viojan attributed the existence of the eagles in Samar today to its remaining vast forests.

The Philippine Eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*) was declared the national bird on July 4, 1994 by virtue of Presidential Proclamation No. 615. It symbolizes efforts to conserve and protect the country's remaining forests.

Japanese firm defends exec on Bataan raps

A JAPANESE FIRM THAT WON A contract to build the P21-billion Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway yesterday came to the defense of its top official in the country who had been declared persona non grata by the provincial board of Bataan.

In a letter to the Bases Conversion Development Authority, Akmichi Hamajima, general manager of Obayashi Corp.'s office in the Philippines, said his firm had investigated the charges against Kazuhico Chabayashi and found them baseless.

Chabayashi is the firm's project manager in charge of the Bataan segment of the expressway project.

"Based on the present situation, it appears that sending Mr. Chabayashi away at this time would aggravate the current situation, instead of helping to improve it," said Hamajima in his letter to the BCDA.

The provincial board of Bataan has declared Chabayashi persona non grata for his alleged refusal to pay taxes to several local government units in the province and the province itself.

The provincial government is asking the Japanese firm to pay local taxes for hauling filling materials extracted from various quarrying sites in Bataan.

In his letter, Hamajima said removing Chabayashi from the Philippines in response to the provincial board's resolution "would further mislead the Bataan provincial officials rather than clarify the much muddled issues."

He said an investigation made by his office revealed that Bataan officials were fed false information that led to the declaration of the Japanese executive as persona non grata.

Chabayashi, according to the letter, "has made serious efforts and taken proper action to comply fully with the requirements imposed by the provincial government."

Obayashi Corp. is the principal Japanese contractor "in charge of the Bataan segment of the 90-km expressway project that the government sees as a catalyst to progress in Central Luzon.

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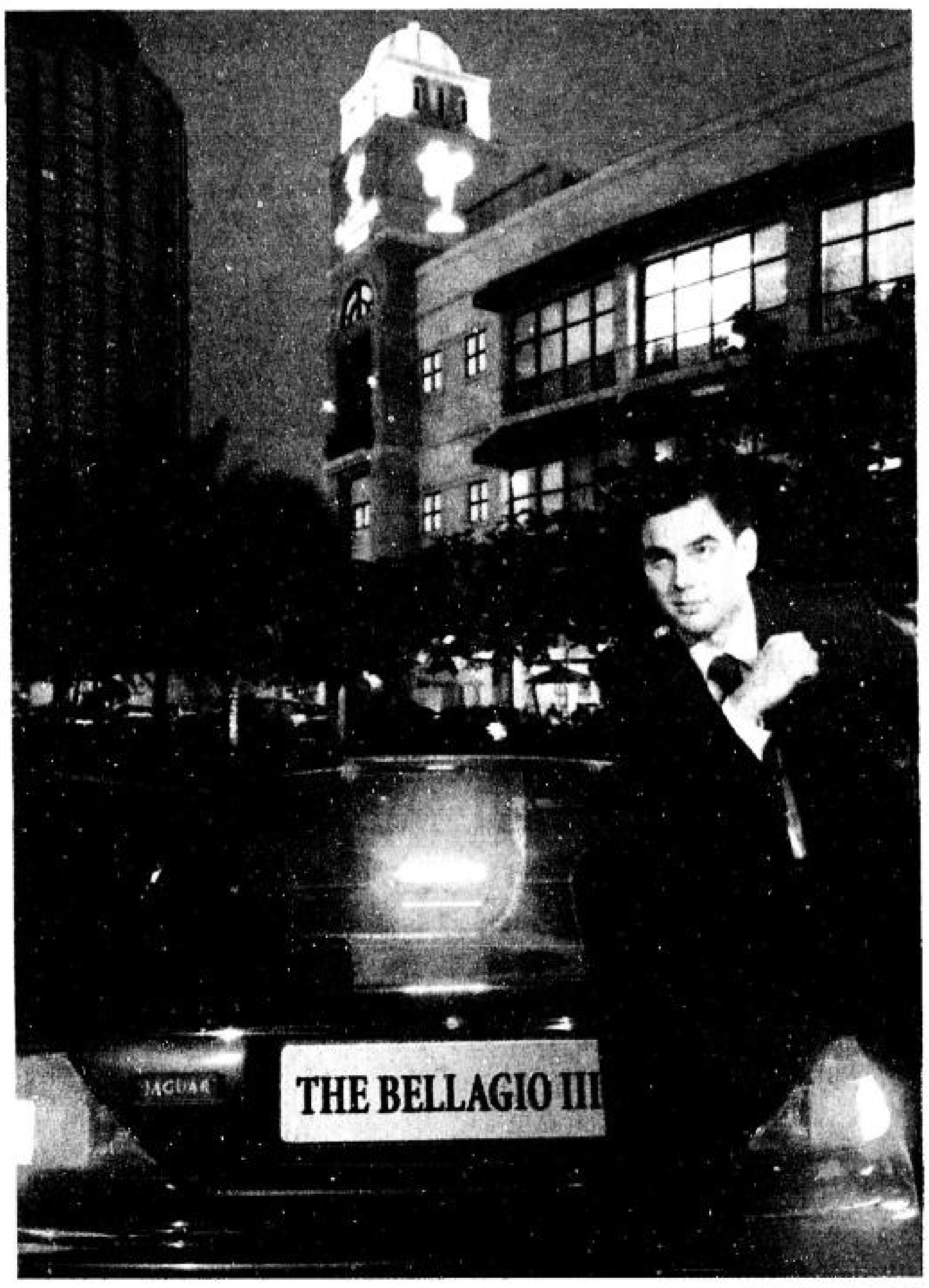
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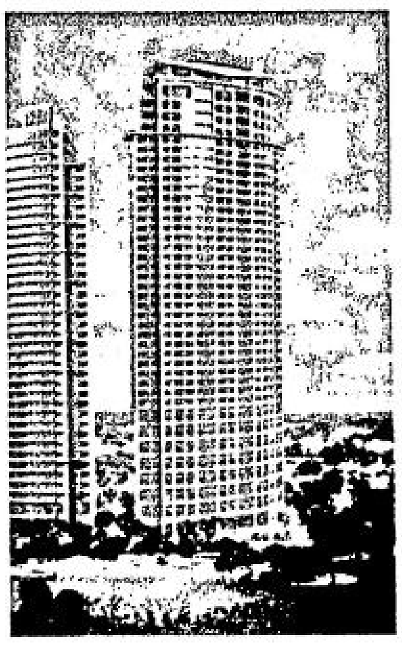

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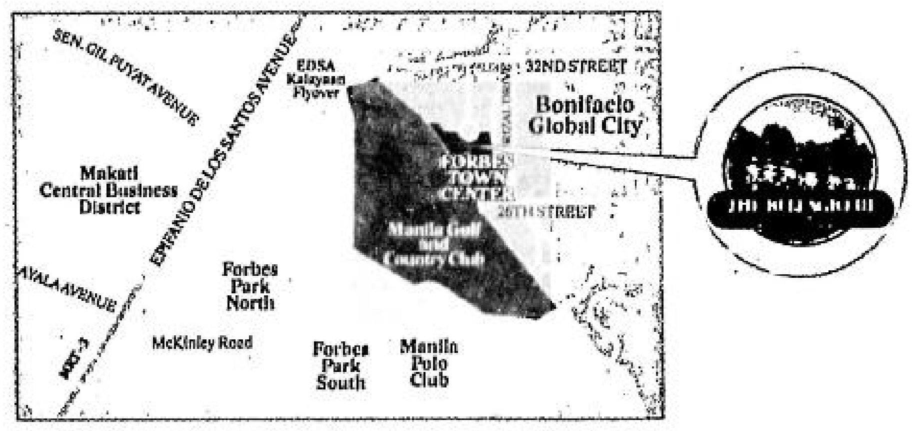
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WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Metro public schools safe except for two in Manila, says DPWH** /A24

NBI warns vs new drug

Cheaper illegal substance more dangerous

By Margaux C. Ortiz

FOR DRUG PEDDLERS AND USERS IN POOR communities affected by the government's intensified campaign against illegal drugs, desperation is the mother of invention.

Officials of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) yesterday said that a relatively new drug called "wata" which stands for *walang tama* (no high) is becoming popular among users of shabu or methamphetamine hydrochloride.

"Wata" became popular not too long ago when successive government raids led to the discovery of several big-time shabu laboratories, forcing drug peddlers to formulate a new drug. "Its ingredients are still unknown. We have yet to conduct a test to determine the drug's composition," NBI Reaction, Arrest and Interdiction Division (RAID) chief Roel Bolivar said in an interview yesterday.

"The scarceness of shabu has led drug peddlers and users to make their own concoctions," NBI Anti-Illegal Drugs Task Force commander Ruel Lasala said. He warned, however, that the combination of incomplete chemicals could endanger the lives of "wata" users.

Bolivar said they have received reports that "wata" has gained popularity in poor communities in Quezon City and Manila.

"Users experience a tightening of the throat and extreme irritation of the nose during 'wata' sessions," he added.

Some claimed that the "wata" they sniffed contained baking soda, while others said the drug's ingredients included sulfur powder and even bathroom deodorizers mixed with a little shabu.

Bolivar said "wata" could be bought for P10,000 per "bulto" (five grams). The same amount of shabu, according to the NBI official, now costs P30,000.

INGREDIENT used in making shabu confiscated during an entrapment operation last Monday in Quiapo, Manila. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Cops hunt down officer in buy-bust

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A POLICE OFFICIAL IS NOW THE SUBJECT of a massive manhunt after agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) seized P160 million worth of ephedrine, a basic ingredient in the manufacture of shabu, from two of his alleged companions during a buy-bust operation in Quiapo, Manila, on Monday.

NBI acting director Nestor Mantaring said Insp. Roderick Baguno, of the Philippine National Police Region VI office, allegedly provided his accomplices with 108 kilos of ephedrine. Mantaring added that Baguno was with the police team that raided a Quezon City warehouse in June 2005, where P1.6 billion worth of ephedrine was recovered.

Baguno may have taken some of the ephedrine seized during the raid, NBI Anti-Illegal Drugs Task Force commander Ruel Lasala told reporters yesterday.

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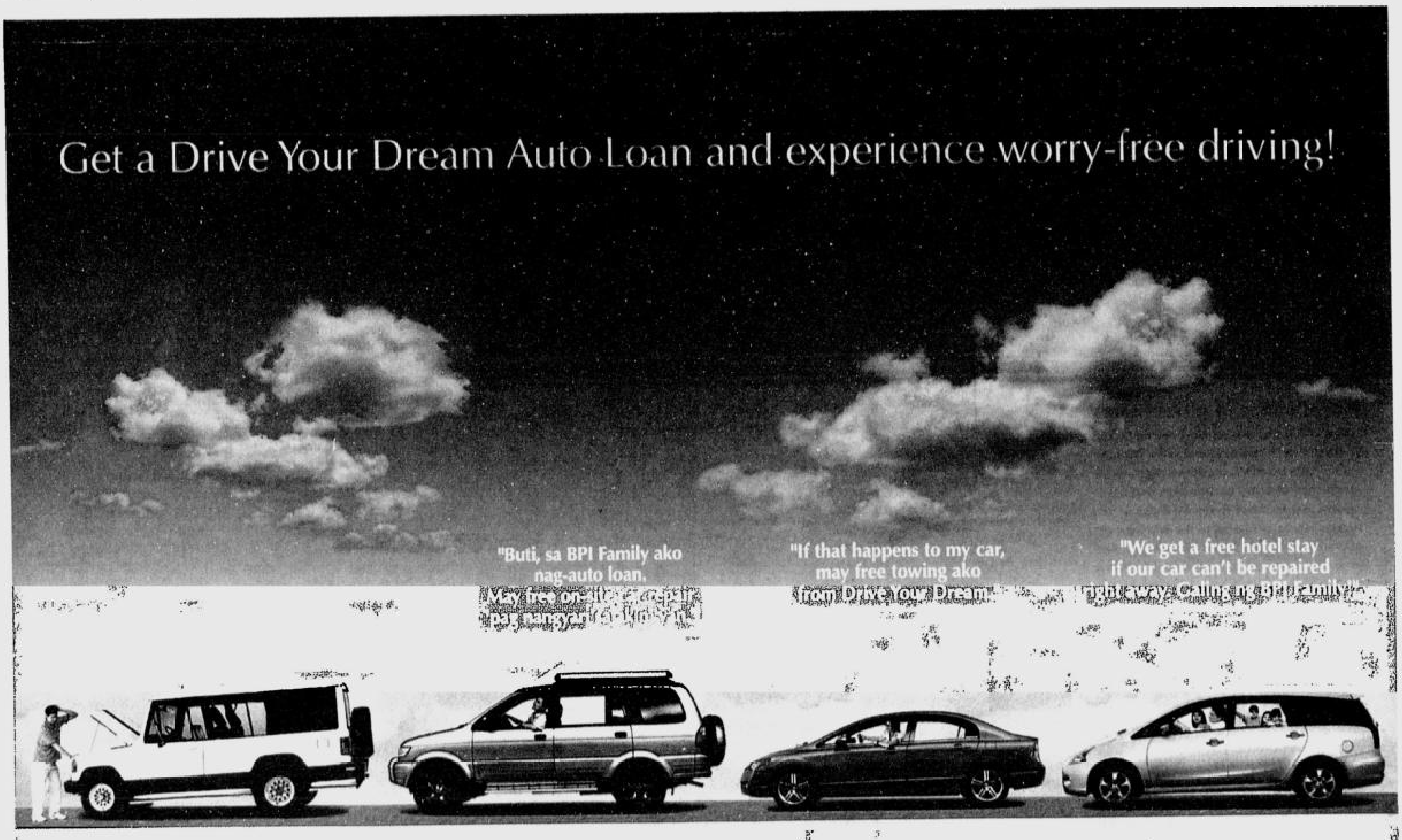
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Most Metro public schools safe, says DPWH

By Leila B. Salaverria

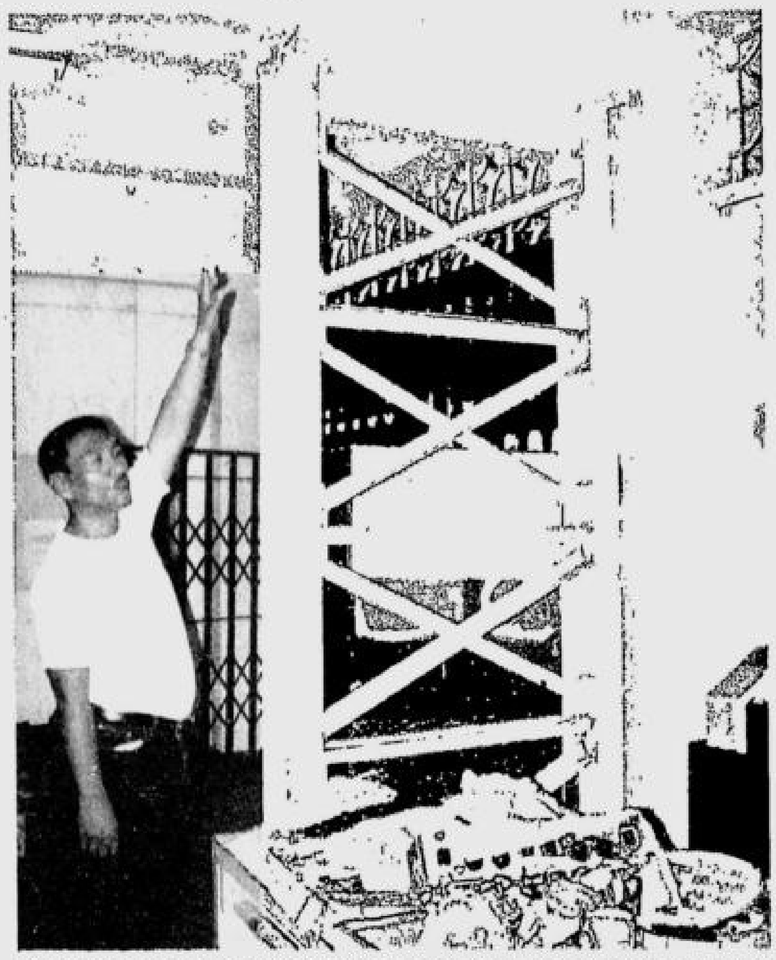
ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDINGS in Metro Manila can be safely used by students, except for two structures in the City of Manila which have sustained structural damage, according to the Department of Public Works and Highways.

The DPWH Task Force on Building Inspection has recommended for demolition a four-story building housing 64 classrooms at the Manuel Roxas High School in Paco and another four-story building with 39 classrooms at the Araullo High School in Ermita.

Emmanuel Cuntapay, task force vice chair and director of the National Building Code Development Office, said that apart from the two school buildings, they have not ordered any other structure to be vacated.

But he stressed that local building officials, in coordination with the DPWH, must undertake an immediate detailed evaluation of the 49 other public school buildings listed by the task force as vulnerable to strong earthquakes.

Cuntapay said this was necessary to determine how these structures could be strengthened or improved.



SUPPORT beams have been put up to contain structural damage at a classroom inside a building on the Araullo High School campus along UN Avenue, Manila. RODEL ROTONI

PUPILS at the Batasan Hills Elementary School in Quezon City hold slabs of concrete that fell from the ceiling of their damaged classroom. The students have been shunted to other rooms at a safer site on the school grounds. JOAN BONDOC

At the top of the task force list of public schools in need of structural reevaluation were Manila High School, Batasan Hills Elementary School and Carlos Albert High School, all in Quezon City, and the Cecilio Apostol Elementary School in Caloocan City.

The DPWH is in charge of inspecting public buildings while local government units are responsible for determining the structural integrity of private structures.

Elena Batusan, the principal of the Manuel Roxas High School, said the 4,000 students who used to hold classes at the damaged building have been moved to other buildings.

The school has 5,200 students. Cuntapay said makeshift classrooms would also be built on the school grounds to accommodate the displaced students.

Among the structural damage that the DPWH had observed while inspecting the four-story school building were cracks on its girders, beams, columns, stairs and ceiling.

Some of the damage was caused by the July 1990 earthquake. The task force had also reported that the third and fourth floors would vibrate whenever vehicles passed by a nearby road.

Building funds

Cuntapay said a new building would be built once the old one was demolished. He estimated that construction would take 18 months at a cost of P80 million. Funding would come from President Macapagal-Arroyo or the local government.

Officials at the Araullo High School, however, were not in favor of demolishing the affected school building.

Although the structure is no longer used by students, school principal Angela Ong said the school has undertaken enough retrofitting measures—like putting up temporary steel supports—to make it safe to use again.

Among the damage the DPWH task force had reported during its inspection of the four-story structure were cracks on girders, beams and slabs, partly due to the July 1990 earthquake.

Third party

Cuntapay believes the building should be demolished, but Ong disagrees. "We should be more judicious," Ong told Cuntapay when he visited the school yesterday. She also insisted that the DPWH recommendation be taken up with the local government.

Cuntapay said he would get the opinion of a third party. "We might have antagonized the city of Manila, but we can never bargain on safety issues," he added.

"If we just retrofit the building, we might prolong its life for only a few years. But if we build a new one, its life span could be 50 years. That would be better for the students," he stressed.

Improvements

Cuntapay also stressed that public school buildings should undertake improvements that would ensure the safety of students not only during quakes but in other emergencies such as a fire or stampede. "It's not only earthquakes that we have to worry about," he said.

Cuntapay pointed out that principals need to remove the iron grills at the entrance and exits of school buildings as these could hamper movement during an evacuation.

"We know they're using these as a deterrent against thieves, but these are important factors to consider when there is an evacuation," he said.

Luminous signs pointing to the exits were also necessary, as well as a floor plan of the school and open spaces on the grounds where children would be able to gather safely, away from power lines.

Cuntapay said that the majority of school buildings they inspected did not have these provisions.

"Building administrators should know their responsibilities," he added.

Preparing for Big One

By Jocelyn P. Dimaculangan

PREDICTING WHEN AND where the next Big One will occur may be impossible but you can prepare for earthquakes to ensure that you and your family will be safe.

With the country sitting on what is commonly referred to as the Pacific "Ring of Fire"—a zone around the Pacific Ocean basin where quakes and volcanic eruptions frequently occur—everyone should prepare survival kits that would enhance their chances of survival should a calamity or disaster to occur.

Survival kit

Every member of the family should know where these survival kits are stored. According to data compiled by Reynaldo de Dios, risk and insurance management consultant, each kit should contain the following:

- Drinking water (minimum of one gallon per person per day);
- First aid supplies, medicine and essential hygiene items such as soap, toothpaste and toilet paper;
- Extra light bulbs, emergency light or flashlight with extra batteries;
- Battery-operated radio and spare batteries;
- Canned and packaged food, cooking utensils, including a manual can opener;
- Warm clothing, sturdy shoes, extra socks and blankets;
- Heavy duty plastic bags for storing waste;
- Work gloves or any heavy-duty gloves for protection; and
- Copies of important documents such as insurance policies and personal identification cards.

Contingency

Following the killer quake in Indonesia, officials have urged the public to be prepared for any contingency, especially since experts have monitored strong seismic activity in the Asia-Pacific Rim in the past 18 months.

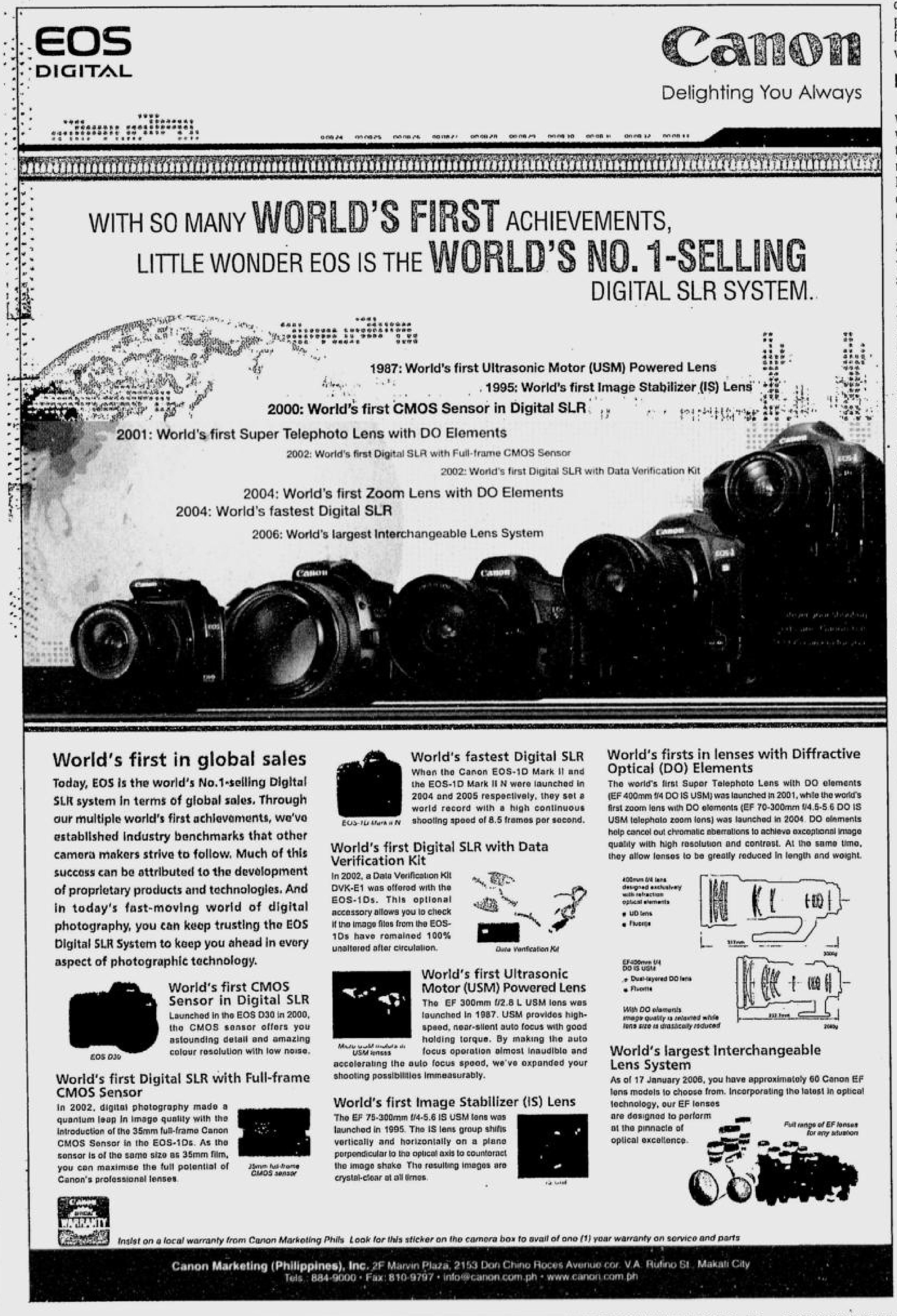
A study conducted in 2004 by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs), Office of Civil Defense and the Japan International Corp. Agency revealed that should an earthquake with an intensity of 7.2 on the Richter Scale hit Metro Manila, thousands could be killed or injured.

Retrofitting

De Dios said buildings in Manila can undergo retrofitting or be subjected to a technique used by structural engineers to improve its structural integrity.

De Dios has been actively campaigning for the creation of an earthquake insurance pool similar to that being implemented in Japan and Turkey.

"This pool, composed of nonlife insurance companies, is not just for profit. It's basically a pooling of resources just in case a major earthquake happens," he explained.



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Haditha horror spread over 3 hours, says prober

BAGHDAD, IRAQ—A SMALL group of US Marines alleged to have killed up to two dozen Iraqi civilians conducted a house-to-house hunt that stretched over three hours, while other Marines in Haditha did not intervene, according to an Iraqi human rights investigator.

The Associated Press interview of the activist is the most detailed account yet of Iraqi accusations that Marines went on a rampage after a comrade was killed by a bomb. Two separate US military investigations of the incident are under way.

Tarnished image

Thaer al-Hadithi, a member and spokesperson for the Hammurabi human rights association, a Sunni Muslim group, recounted with the help of a satellite map when and where Iraqi civilians cowered and sometimes died.

The case, which came to public attention two months ago because of a video released by the Hammurabi group, is threatening to further weaken popular support for the Iraq war in the United States and has tarnished the military's image in Iraq and around the world.

Deliberate gunfire

The military, after initially saying the Iraqi deaths were the result of the roadside bomb and a subsequent gunfight with insurgents, has not publicly released updated findings.

But newer accounts, including details from briefings to members of Congress, have indicated at least some of the 24 deaths were the result of deliberate gunfire by a small group of Marines seeking revenge for the bombing, and that their actions were covered up by other Marines in the area who knew or suspected what had occurred.

Iraq also has ordered its own probe of the killings, with Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki using unusually strong language to condemn them.

Al-Hadithi's account is mostly in line with other, eyewitness reports. He said he expanded his personal observations at the time with follow-up interviews of other witnesses who saw actions that he could not see from his house. He made repeated visits to the restive town to get information, he said.

Explosion

Hammurabi chair Abdul-Rahman al-Mashhadani told the AP on Tuesday that his group was investigating other violations of Iraqi civil rights by Western forces in the mainly Sunni Arab provinces of Anbar and Salaheddin to the west and north of Baghdad. He said the group also was looking into violations by Iraqi security forces, militias and tribal clans.

"We are also against terrorism," he said.

Al-Hadithi, 42, said he had been visiting his family in Haditha in western Iraq for a Muslim holiday when he was awakened on the morning of Nov. 19 by an explosion that he later learned to be a roadside bomb that hit a US convoy of four Humvees, killing one Marine.

A native of the town, al-Hadithi was an administrator in Haditha's main hospital before he took leave to work with Hammurabi, which was set up 16 months ago.

Enraged Marines

According to US lawmakers briefed by Pentagon officials, the Marines, enraged by the death of a comrade, stormed nearby homes, killing occupants as well as the driver and four passengers of a taxi.

Al-Hadithi offered new details on how that might have happened. He said the roadside bombing took place on a road about 100-150 meters from his family home.

"There was an eerie silence after the explosion," he said in Hammurabi's Baghdad offices.

First gunshots

"Then, we started to hear noises, soldiers shouting, that grew louder and louder," said al-Hadithi, who spoke with a map of the town he downloaded from the Internet.

The first gunshots were heard at around 7:30 a.m., he said, when the Marines moved into the family home of Abdul-Hamid Hassan Ali, a blind and elderly man in failing health. The house is just south of the spot where the roadside bomb went off, al-Hadithi said.

Later, the Marines moved next door to the house of Younis Salem Rsayef and his family.

"There was intense gunfire and I could see a fire at the Rsayef home," said al-Hadithi, who watched from a window at his family home.

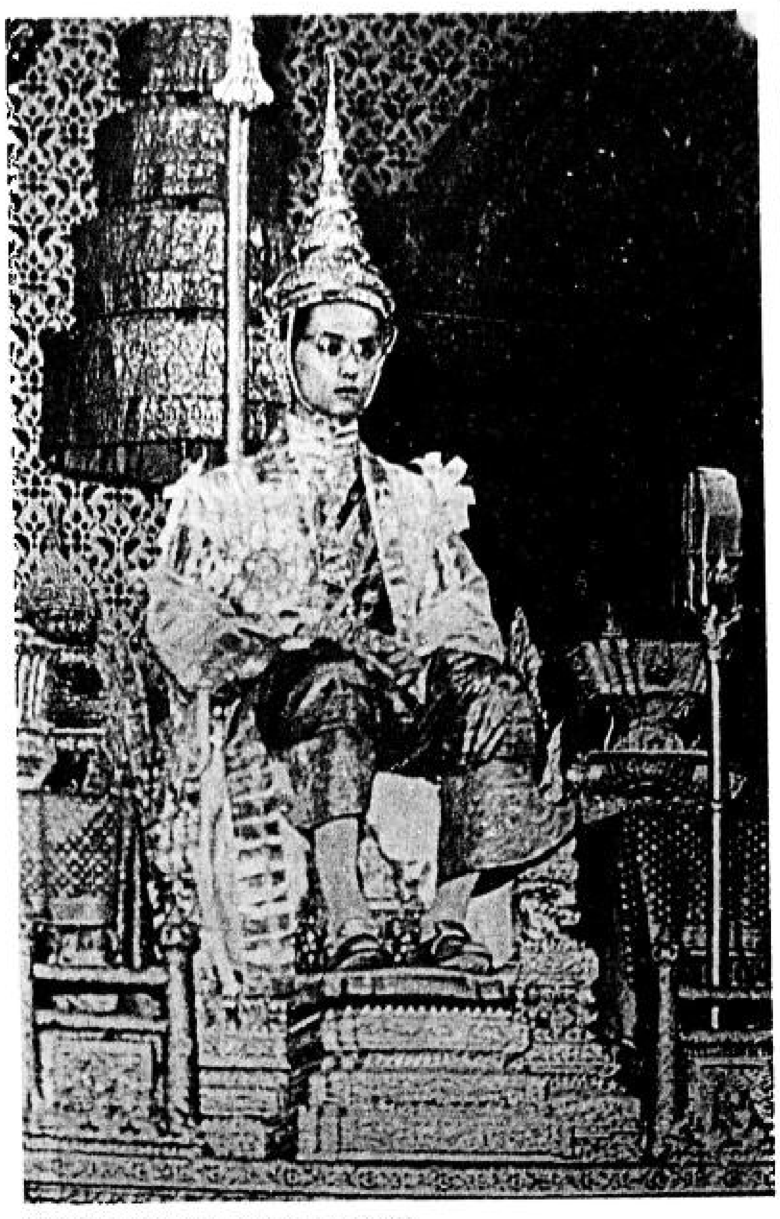
One of the 24 bodies taken to Haditha's main hospital late on Nov. 19 was charred, according to Walid Abdul-Hameed al-Obeidi, the hospital director. That was believed to be one of Rsayef's sons, who witnesses said was burned to death after a grenade was thrown into his room.

Family slaughtered

Ali and his wife Khamisa Toamah Ali were killed along with three of their sons, a daughter-in-law and a grandson, according to witnesses, hospital officials and human rights workers.

In the second home, eight people were killed: Rsayef, his wife, her sister and five children.

"You could tell that someone was killed by the gunfire and then the wailing and screaming of women seconds after the Americans left the house," said al-Hadithi. *AP*



60 YEARS ON THE THRONE
Undated photo shows Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej ascending to the throne at the Royal Palace in Bangkok. Thailand begins three days of solemn religious rites on June 9 to honor King Bhumibol's 60th year on the throne, leading up to celebrations next week with royalty from 25 nations. AFP

Popular class of high blood drugs may cause birth defects

A POPULAR CLASS OF DRUGS FOR HIGH blood pressure, ACE inhibitors, may cause birth defects if taken during the first three months of pregnancy, doctors are reporting. Pregnant women and those who are planning to become pregnant should avoid the drugs, the researchers and officials at the Food and Drug Administration warn.

ACE inhibitors have long been known to cause birth defects if taken later in pregnancy, but until now were considered safe if taken in the first trimester.

Increased risks

The new information comes from a study of the medical records of 29,507 infants, being published Thursday in The New England Journal of Medicine by researchers from Vanderbilt University and Boston University. The study found 209 infants who had been exposed to the drugs in the first trimester, 18 of whom had birth defects; in half, the heart was affected.

The rate of defects among infants exposed to the drugs was 2.7 times that of infants who were not. Infants whose mothers had taken other blood pressure medicines had no increased risk.

Although the number of affected babies was small, Dr. Robert Temple, an associate director of the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research at the FDA, said the 2.7-fold increase in risk was "moderately large," and added, "This is important enough and impressive enough to tell people about."

1.4 million prescriptions

For now, Temple said, the agency does not plan to require changes in ACE inhibitor prescribing information. He said the FDA needed to study the new data further to decide whether changes were necessary.

ACE inhibitors, or inhibitors of angiotensin-converting-enzyme, are among the most widely used drugs to treat high blood pressure, with about 42 million prescriptions written a year.

The new study's main author, Dr. William O. Cooper, a Vanderbilt pediatrician, said women of childbearing age received 1.4 million prescriptions for the drugs in 1995. By 2002, the number was 2.7 million. *NYT*

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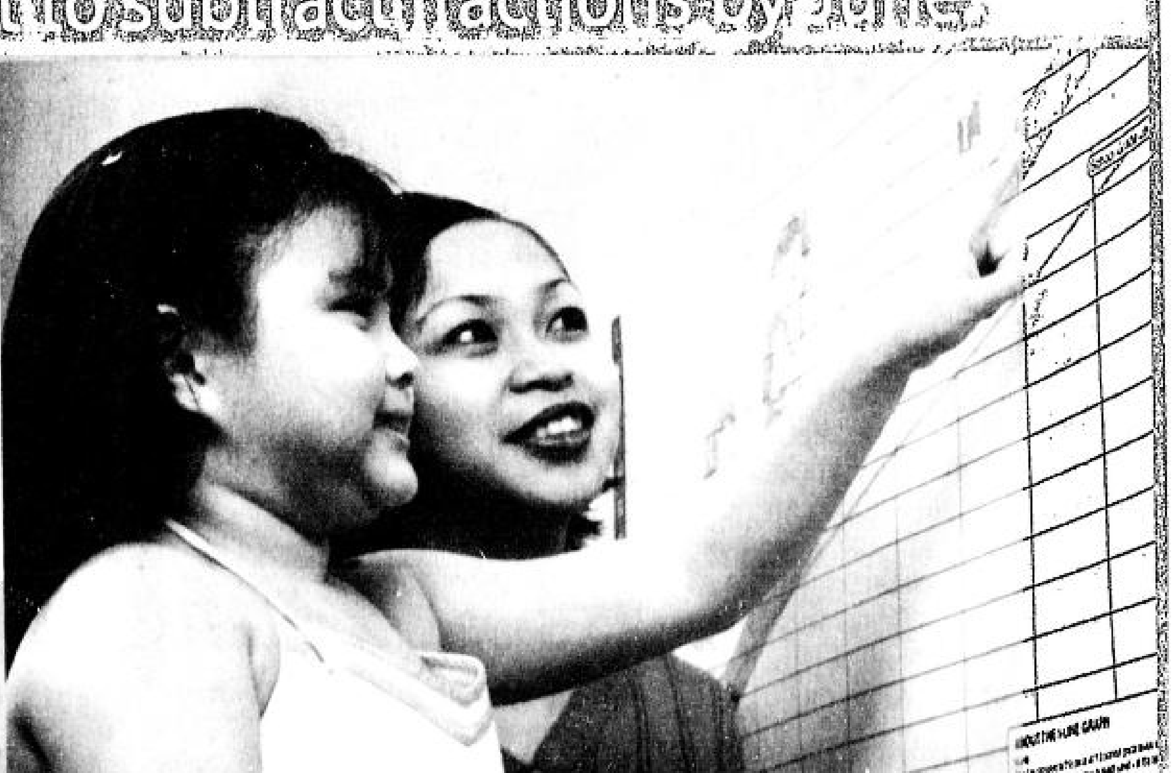

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Probe: Europe aided CIA on secret jails

PARIS—MORE THAN 20 MOSTLY EUROPEAN countries colluded in a "global spider's web" of secret CIA jails and flight transfers of terrorist suspects stretching from Asia to Guantanamo Bay, a rights watchdog said on Wednesday.

Council of Europe investigator Dick Marty said the US Central Intelligence Agency's well-oiled system did not involve torture but amounted to a form of "legal and judicial apartheid" that could exacerbate Muslim anger and spawn new terrorists.

The United States maintained a stance of neither denying nor confirming the allegations but challenged the credibility of the Council of Europe's report. Some European governments denied breaking laws, while others were silent or went on the attack.

European governments have faced embarrassing allegations over cooperation with US policies unpopular with domestic opinion. It has fueled perceptions some were ready to ignore national laws due to US pressure to back the war on terrorism.

Marty said in the report many of the Council's 46 member states had provided limited cooperation with his inquiry, but witnesses, plane enthusiasts, confidential sources and flight records had helped him partially lift a "veil of silence."

"It is now clear—although we are still far from having established the whole truth—that authorities in several European countries actively participated with the CIA in these unlawful activities," said Marty.

"Other countries ignored them knowingly, or did not want to know," he said, adding he had amassed a great deal of circumstantial evidence of secret CIA detention centers but had "no formal evidence."

MARTY REUTERS

The Council can "name and shame" countries but cannot launch legal proceedings, the preserve of judicial authorities in member states.

Washington says it acted with the full knowledge of the governments concerned, acknowledges the secret transfer of some terrorist suspects between countries and denies any wrongdoing.

"There seem to be a lot of allegations (in the report) but no real facts behind it," US Department of State spokesperson Sean McCormack told reporters in Washington, adding cooperation between countries had saved lives in the war against terrorism.

Polish Prime Minister Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz told reporters: "These accusations are slanderous. They are not based on any facts and that is all I know and all I have to say."

The report said:

- Poland and Romania ran secret detention centers.
- Germany, Turkey, Spain, Cyprus and Azerbaijan were "staging points" (from where operations were launched) for flights involving the unlawful transfer of detainees.
- Ireland, Britain, Portugal, Greece and Italy were "stopovers" (for refueling) for flights involving the unlawful transfer of detainees.
- Sweden, Bosnia, Britain, the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia, Germany and Turkey handed over suspects.
- Cairo, Amman, Islamabad, Rabat, Kabul, Guantanamo Bay, Tashkent, Algiers and Baghdad served as detainee transfer/drop-off points.

Reuters

Good Value for Money at Victoria Towers!

48% Lower Than Competitors

By: Cristia Bonifacio-Lin
Karla Marcia Rey
Cecile Credo Sabang
Photos & layout by: Francis Garcia

Rey L. Vergara

New San Jose Builders, Inc., one of the premiere players in the real estate industry proved that it can be easy putting "beauty and brains" together. With the recent project, *Victoria Towers* (a three tower residential property along Panay cor Timog Avenue) offer buyers unique opportunity to own a quality property in a prime location with affordable price, flexible terms and conditions.

Rey L. Vergara, President of **New San Jose Builders, Inc.** shared the rationale of the company's strategy: "Through the years, we have been building affordable but quality projects." I believed that the greatest strength and opportunity of our company that keeps us going strong even in the most difficult times lies on our capability to develop projects at the least possible cost and at the soonest possible time. Being the developer, builder, planner and marketing, we are capable of offering almost 48% lower than competitors within the area but not sacrificing the quality of the projects. We don't have any "add-on" cost because we practically do everything from conceptualization of plans and designs, construction and marketing, so our buyers get really good value for their hard earned money."

Vergara also takes pride in building projects faster than what has been accepted of finishing projects within five years.

"Our track record showed that by being the contractors, we can complete the construction from eight months to two years depending on the size of the project. We have a pool of dependable, hardworking and well -experienced workers.

"We can always afford to speed up construction primarily because we can finance it without necessarily having to depend on the buyers' monthly amortization. Buyers are guaranteed of a fast turnover rate. The long wait is over" **Vergara said.**

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"*Victoria Towers* is the single biggest condominium project we have right now. It's still along the lines of the previous condominiums that we have built in the sense that it is affordable and has a very good location: the best condo that money can buy in the area," **Vergara** further discloses with excitement.

Victoria Towers is a three tower residential property that is seated on the 4,529 sqm (more or less). It is strategically located along Timog corner Panay Avenue in Quezon City with an aggregate of 2 ½ hectares of commercial area. The amenities are infinity pool, business center, gym, day care center and more.

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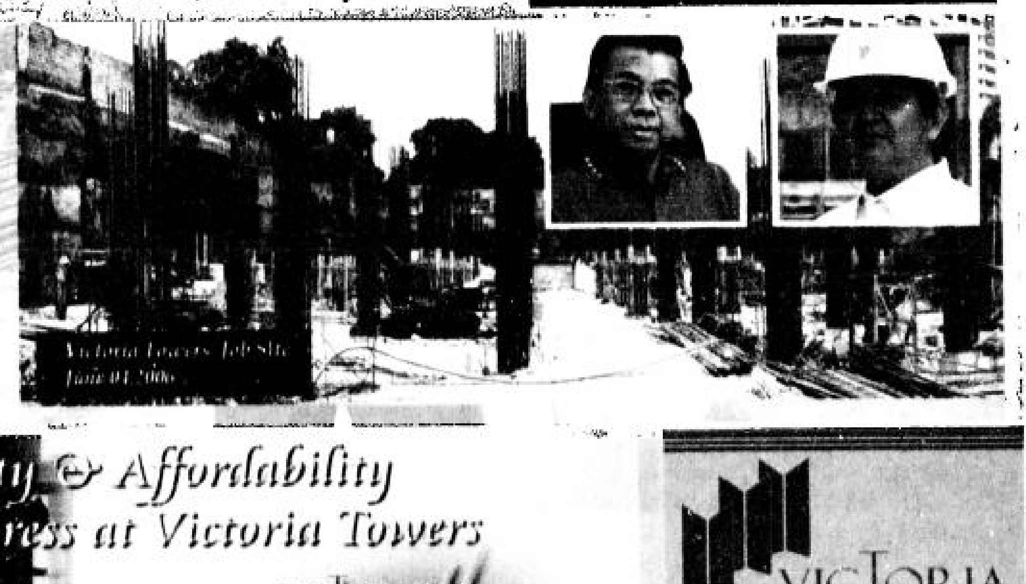
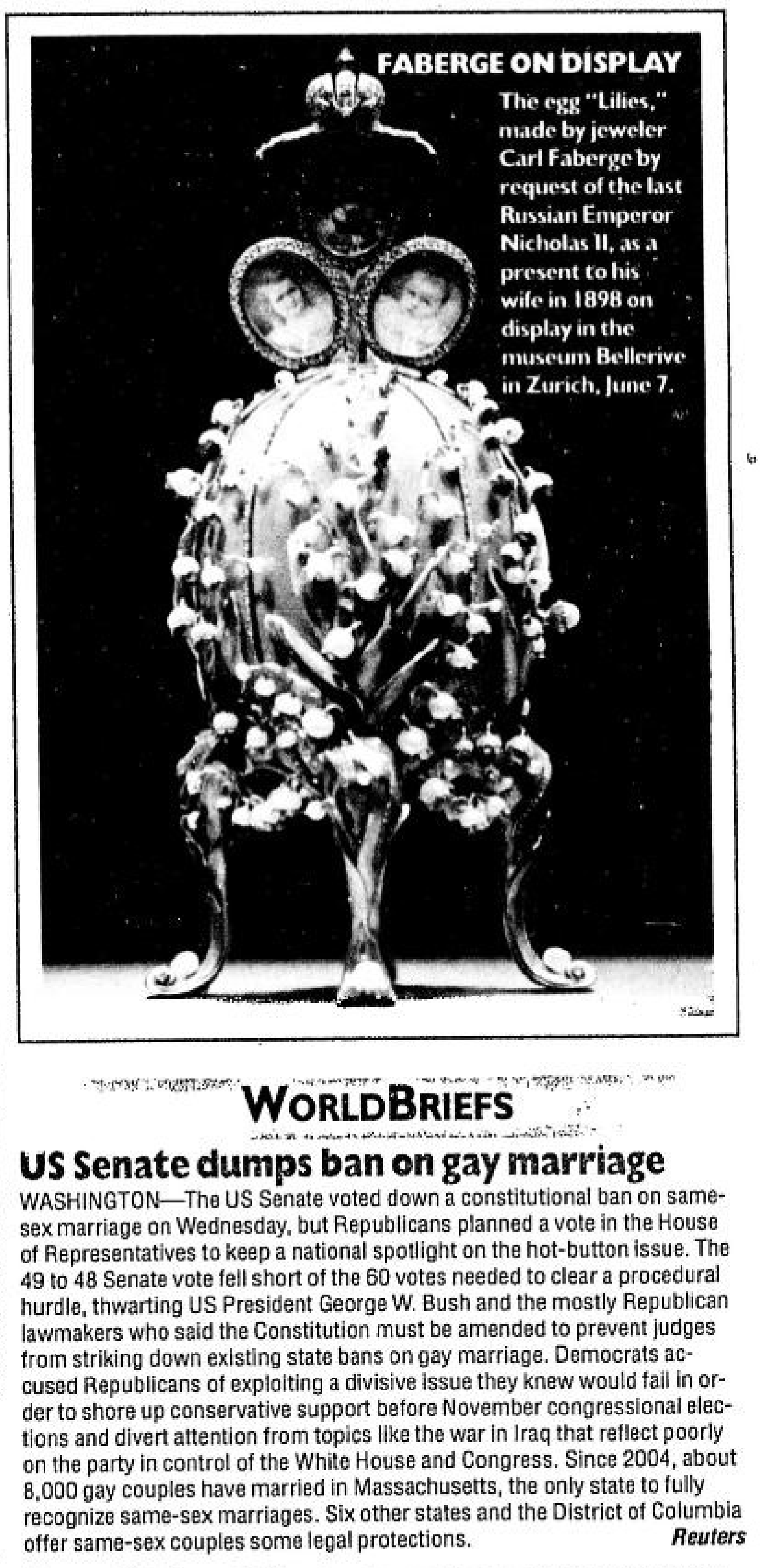
The Building Team, SVP Feliciano Isidro & Project Manager Engr. Noel Lacsamana





FABERGE ON DISPLAY
The egg "Lilies," made by jeweler Carl Faberge by request of the last Russian Emperor Nicholas II, as a present to his wife in 1898 on display in the museum Bellerive in Zurich, June 7.

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LOS ANGELES—The world's leggiest animal, about an inch (2.5 centimeters) long, has been sighted in a remote part of California decades after it was first discovered. The recent rediscovery of the rare millipede species, with more than 600 legs, excited scientists who want to preserve the tiny patch of land around where it was spotted. "This is a milestone find," said Richard Hoffman, a millipede expert at the Virginia Museum of Natural History who had no connection with the discovery. Despite the name, which means "thousand-legged," most millipedes have on average 300 legs. Of the estimated 10,000 species, only one—I. plenipes—comes close to living up to its name and only thrives in California. *AP*

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Probe: Europe aided CIA on secret jails

PARIS—MORE THAN 20 MOSTLY EUROPEAN countries colluded in a "global spider's web" of secret CIA jails and flight transfers of terrorist suspects stretching from Asia to Guantanamo Bay, a rights watchdog said on Wednesday.

Council of Europe investigator Dick Marty said the US Central Intelligence Agency's well-oiled system did not involve torture but amounted to a form of "legal and judicial apartheid" that could exacerbate Muslim anger and spawn new terrorists.

The United States maintained a stance of neither denying nor confirming the allegations but challenged the credibility of the Council of Europe's report. Some European governments denied breaking laws, while others were silent or went on the attack.

European governments have faced embarrassing allegations over cooperation with US policies unpopular with domestic opinion. It has fueled perceptions some were ready to ignore national laws due to US pressure to back the war on terrorism.

Marty said in the report many of the Council's 46 member states had provided limited cooperation with his inquiry, but witnesses, plane enthusiasts, confidential sources and flight records had helped him partially lift a "veil of silence."

"It is now clear—although we are still far from having established the whole truth—that authorities in several European countries actively participated with the CIA in these unlawful activities," said Marty.

"Other countries ignored them knowingly, or did not want to know," he said, adding he had amassed a great deal of circumstantial evidence of secret CIA detention centers but had "no formal evidence."

MARTY REUTERS

The Council can "name and shame" countries but cannot launch legal proceedings, the preserve of judicial authorities in member states.

Washington says it acted with the full knowledge of the governments concerned, acknowledges the secret transfer of some terrorist suspects between countries and denies any wrongdoing.

"There seem to be a lot of allegations (in the report) but no real facts behind it," US Department of State spokesperson Sean McCormack told reporters in Washington, adding cooperation between countries had saved lives in the war against terrorism.

Polish Prime Minister Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz told reporters: "These accusations are slanderous. They are not based on any facts and that is all I know and all I have to say."

The report said:

- Poland and Romania ran secret detention centers.
- Germany, Turkey, Spain, Cyprus and Azerbaijan were "staging points" (from where operations were launched) for flights involving the unlawful transfer of detainees.
- Ireland, Britain, Portugal, Greece and Italy were "stopovers" (for refueling) for flights involving the unlawful transfer of detainees.
- Sweden, Bosnia, Britain, the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia, Germany and Turkey handed over suspects.
- Cairo, Amman, Islamabad, Rabat, Kabul, Guantanamo Bay, Tashkent, Algiers and Baghdad served as detainee transfer/drop-off points.

Reuters

Good Value for Money at Victoria Towers!

48% Lower Than Competitors

By: Cristia Bonifacio-Lin
Karla Marcia Rey
Cecile Credo Sabang
Photos & layout by: Francis Garcia

Rey L. Vergara

New San Jose Builders, Inc., one of the premiere players in the real estate industry proved that it can be easy putting "beauty and brains" together. With the recent project, *Victoria Towers* (a three tower residential property along Panay cor Timog Avenue) offer buyers unique opportunity to own a quality property in a prime location with affordable price, flexible terms and conditions.

Rey L. Vergara, President of **New San Jose Builders, Inc.** shared the rationale of the company's strategy: "Through the years, we have been building affordable but quality projects." I believed that the greatest strength and opportunity of our company that keeps us going strong even in the most difficult times lies on our capability to develop projects at the least possible cost and at the soonest possible time. Being the developer, builder, planner and marketing, we are capable of offering almost 48% lower than competitors within the area but not sacrificing the quality of the projects. We don't have any "add-on" cost because we practically do everything from conceptualization of plans and designs, construction and marketing, so our buyers get really good value for their hard earned money."

Vergara also takes pride in building projects faster than what has been accepted of finishing projects within five years.

"Our track record showed that by being the contractors, we can complete the construction from eight months to two years depending on the size of the project. We have a pool of dependable, hardworking and well -experienced workers.

"We can always afford to speed up construction primarily because we can finance it without necessarily having to depend on the buyers' monthly amortization. Buyers are guaranteed of a fast turnover rate. The long wait is over" **Vergara** said.

Premium investment opportunity at Victoria Towers!

"*Victoria Towers* is the single biggest condominium project we have right now. It's still along the lines of the previous condominiums that we have built in the sense that it is affordable and has a very good location: the best condo that money can buy in the area," **Vergara** further discloses with excitement.

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SPORTS

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

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Laylo clean in 4 rounds

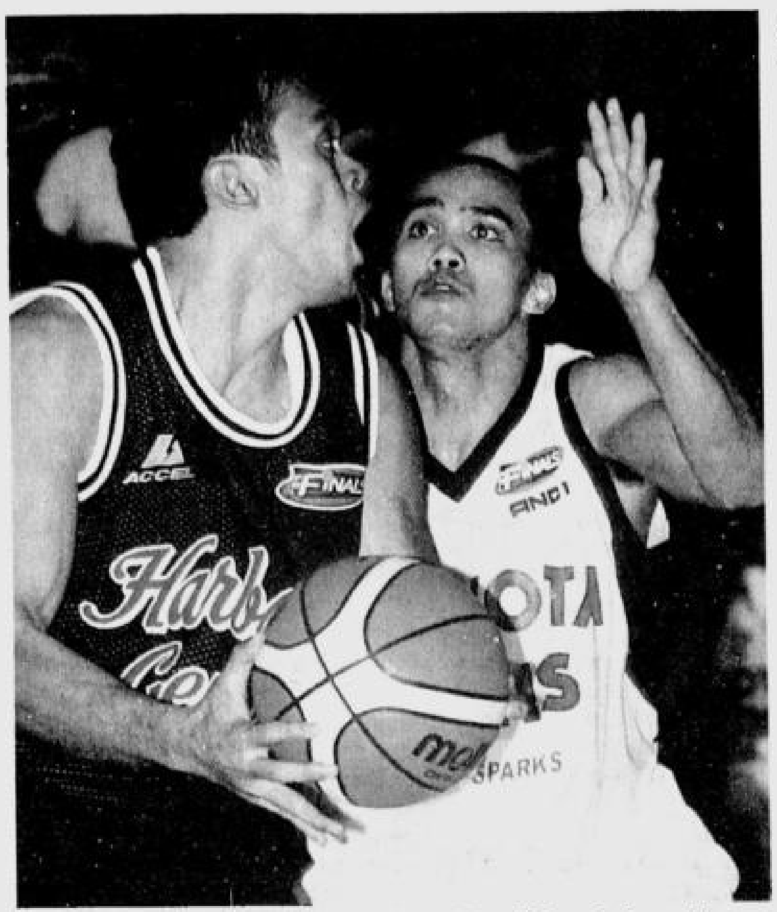
REIGNING PHILIPPINE OPEN CHAMPION Darwin Laylo settled for a draw with 16-year-old Grandmaster Yuriy Kuzubov of Ukraine to strengthen his bid for a GM result in the fourth round of the second San Marino International Open Wednesday at the Kursaal Congress Centre in Republic of San Marino.

The 58th-ranked NM Laylo, still unscathed among six Filipinos in the field, has 3.0 points from two wins and two draws.

After beating No. 132 Alexei Bottino of Italy in the first round, Laylo drew with No. 23 GM Dmitry Svetushkin of Moldova then upset No. 13 GM Vladislav Nevednichy of Romania.

Laylo shared eighth to 37th places in the company of compatriots GM Mark Paragua, GM Eugene Torre and newly installed International Master Oliver Dimakiling and his fifth round opponent on Thursday, No. 31 GM Miso Cebalo of Croatia.

The 54-year-old Torre bowed to No. 49 IM Mikulas Manik of Slovakia in the third round then bounced back by demolishing No. 67 Leonardo Valdez of Italy in the fourth. *NM Marlon Bernardino, contributor*



GERWIN Gaco of Harbour Centre tries to fake off Toyota's Aaron Aban.

ERIK ARAZAS

Toyota dumps Harbour five

By Jasmine W. Payo

GAME TOMORROW *(Olivarez Sports Center)*
2 p.m.—Achievement Awards
3 p.m.—Harbour Centre vs Toyota Otis

TOYOTA OTIS CERTAINLY KNEW WHAT TO do in its Finals debut.

Controlling the game from the start and breaking away for good in the second half, the Sparks overwhelmed the Harbour Centre Portmasters, 68-51, last night for a 1-0 lead in the PBL Unity Cup Finals at the Olivarez Sports Center in Parañaque.

After closing out the third period with an 11-2 tear that turned a slim 40-37 edge into a commanding 51-39 lead, Toyota opened up the fourth with nine unanswered points that broke the Portmasters' collective backs.

Game 2 is scheduled at 3 p.m. tomorrow with coach Louie Alas refusing to admit the huge psychological edge gained by his wards in the swashbuckling win.

"It doesn't mean a thing," said Alas. "We know the capabilities of Harbour. Granny Goose had the twice-to-beat edge (in the quarterfinals), Montaña was also favored (in the semifinals), but they still managed to win."

Starting forward Aaron Aban pumped in 10 of his 14 points in the second half to lead Toyota Otis' balanced charge, which also had guard Christian Coronel shooting 13 and Joe Devance chipping in nine markers.

Harbour Centre labored hard with stars Joseph Yeo and LA Tenorio delivering only a combined 19 markers as the team shot a miserable 26 percent

TOYOTA/ A28

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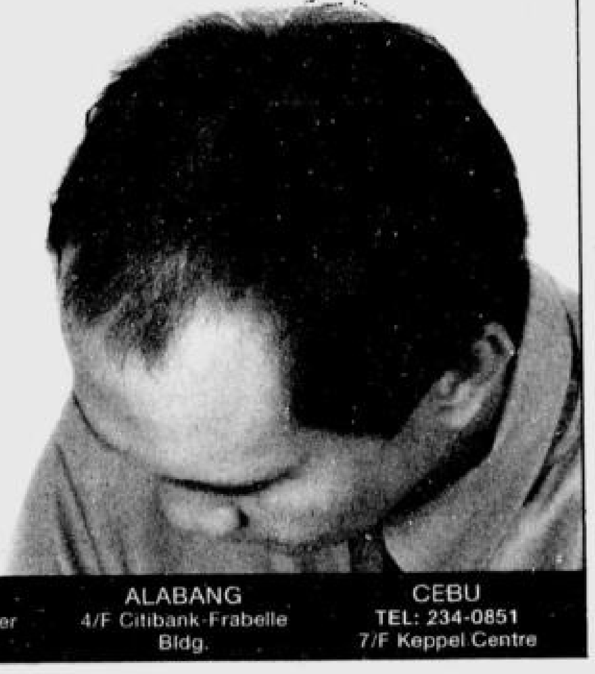

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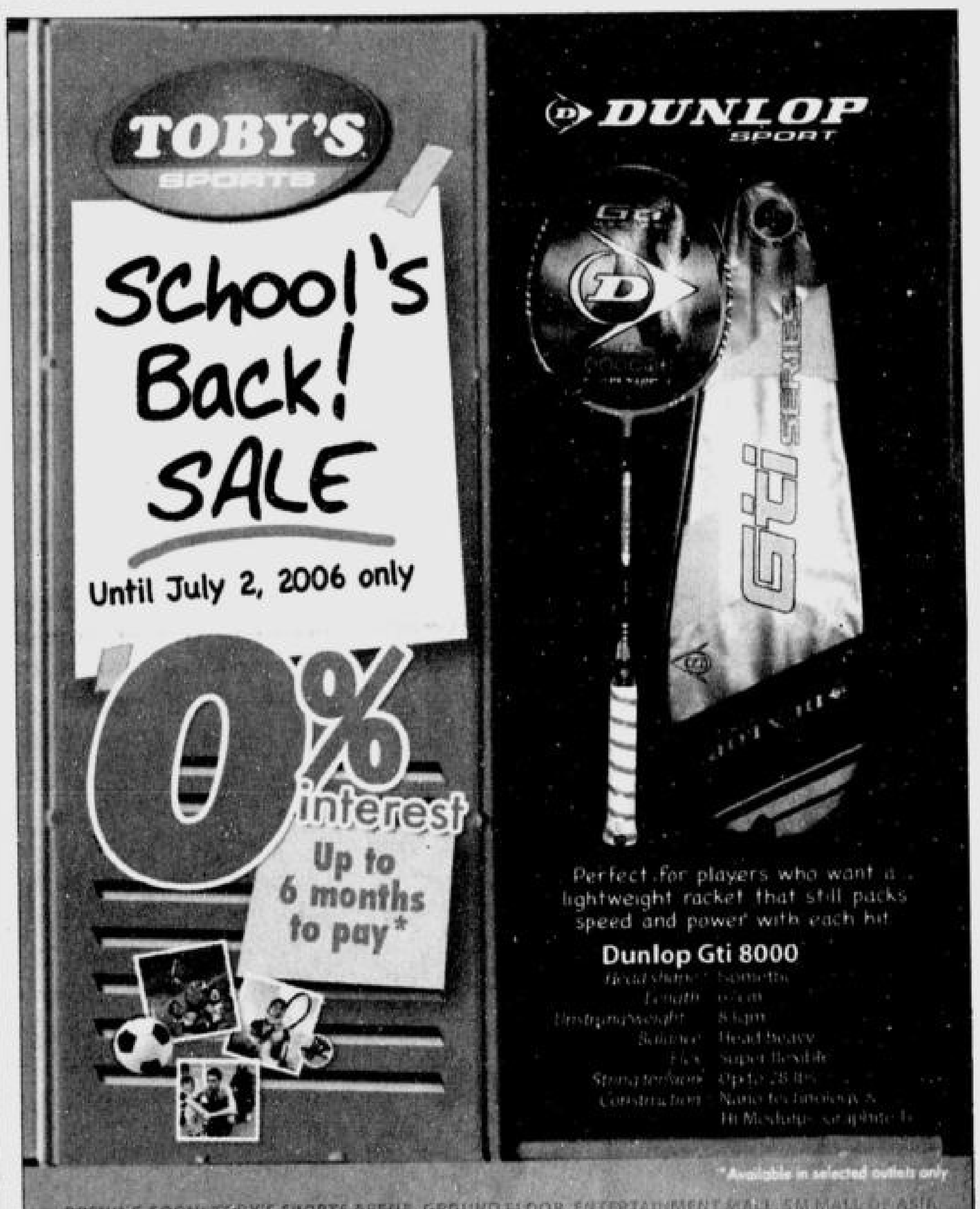

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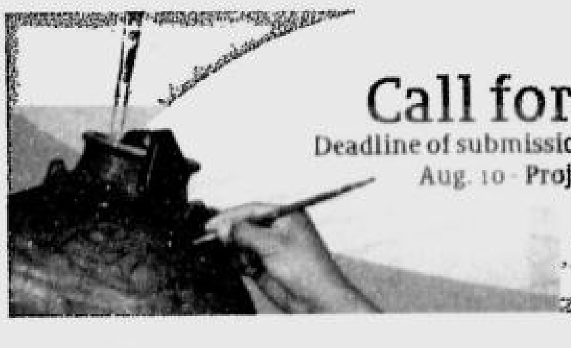

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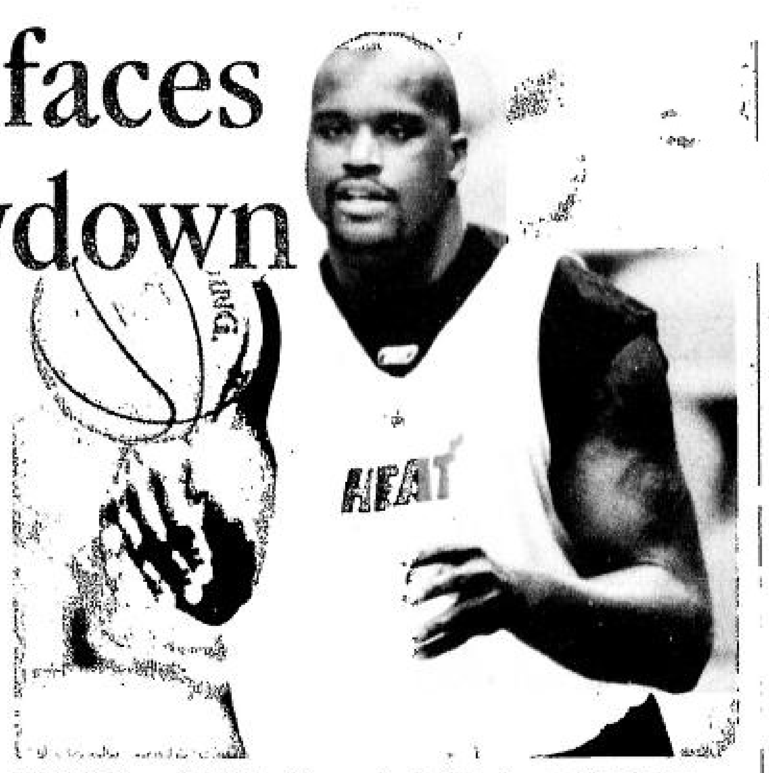


HEAT'S Shaquille O'Neal throws the ball during practice before the 2006 NBA Finals against the Mavericks. REUTERS

DALLAS—NEVER MIND THAT the Miami Heat and the Dallas Mavericks are NBA finals neophytes.

When the series opens on Thursday (Friday GMT), even folks who don't follow basketball will recognize plenty of primary characters — the enormous center with the huge smile, the coach with the snazzy suit and slicked-back hair, even the rich guy in a Mavericks T-shirt and jeans usually seen yelling at the officials.

The names Shaquille O'Neal and Pat Riley certainly aren't new to the NBA's championship series, and each is easy to put with a face. Both have parlayed their hoops fame into other ventures, with O'Neal an endorser, actor and rapper; Riley as an author of best-selling leadership books.

Riley, who retooled Miami's roster as general manager before installing himself as coach this season, seems to be selling his message to the Heat players.

"I think he knows this is what you play for, this moment right here," the 7-foot-1, 325-pound (2.16-meter, 146-kilogram) O'Neal said on Wednesday.

Though both O'Neal and Riley won titles with the Los Angeles Lakers, they weren't there at the same time. Together in Miami, they've taken the Heat to the finals for the first time in the team's 18-year history.

The Dallas Mavericks have waited 26 years to reach the finals since their inception, making this the NBA's first between newcomers since 1971.

To everyone in Dallas, it was worth the wait.

"It's amazing," said the series' third familiar face, Mark Cuban, the outspoken Internet billionaire owner of the Mavericks.

"It means a lot to me, but it means that much more to the guys and the city," he said. "To know you can energize a city is beyond (expectations)."

The casually dressed Cuban is sure to get plenty of TV air time during this series for his passionate cheering and referee-baiting. Although he notes that his anger is aimed at the system, not the guys in the zebra shirts, it's still cost him well over $1 million in fines, including $200,000 (euro156,000) during this year's playoffs.

Will he be on his best behavior for the finals?

"Yeah," he said, laughing. "I'm going to be wearing a suit and I'm going to have some masking tape over my mouth, too."

Cuban spent a chunk of his fortune to buy his favorite team in January 2000. With his aggressive, media-savvy personality, he's become quite a celebrity in US sports and business.

The Mavericks have spent most of their history in the shadow of the NFL's Dallas Cowboys and all their Super Bowls. Things were especially tough in the 1990s, when the Mavericks had the worst record of any team in North America pro sports.

(Chided then as the "Mavwrecks," feel free to call them the "Mavs." They even have jerseys designed by P. Diddy featuring that nickname of their nickname.) *AP*

SOLAR Sports will air Game 1 of the Miami-Dallas final at 9 a.m. today with a replay at 7:30 p.m. It will also be aired over RPN-9 at 9 a.m. with a replay at 7 p.m.

Nalbandian out to spoil dream final

PARIS—FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 21 YEARS, THE TOP FOUR seeds have reached the semifinals of the French Open in Paris.

And while many purists may be hoping for a dream Roger Federer-Rafael Nadal final, two very in-form players are determined to spoil the party.

Switzerland's world number one Federer will be up first on Friday against Argentinian David Nalbandian, one of the few players against whom he has a losing record.

Neither is a clay specialist but Nalbandian feels physical conditioning will have more of a bearing on the result than the surface.

"I have won and lost against him on all surfaces," Nalbandian said.

When asked who he thought the favorite was, he replied: "Who is the number one? He is the favorite but for sure Nalbandian can beat him."

Nalbandian's 6-5 head-to-head advantage, though, owes much to the fact that he won the pair's first five meetings, before Federer started to dominate men's tennis.

Although he has since lost five of the last six, he did win the most important of those at last year's Masters Cup final in Shanghai where he came back from two sets to love down to claim the title, 7-6, in the decider.

Meanwhile, defending women's champion Justine Henin-Hardenne continues her quest for a third French Open crown with an all-Belgian semifinal against twice finalist Kim Clijsters on Thursday. *AFP*

Spain offers richest WC incentives

LEVERKUSEN, GERMANY—SOUTH KOREA's players will each receive almost $530,000 if they win the World Cup, the Korean Football Association (KFA) said on Wednesday.

The bounty is the third-highest among the 32 teams at the finals in Germany, the KFA said, with Spain ($712,000) and England ($546,000) occupying the top two places.

Korea's players will receive over $100,000 if they get past the first round, $210,000 for reaching the quarterfinals and $315,000 if they match their 2002 feat and make the semis.

There was no figure available for what they would earn if they reach the final and lose.

"The plan is to offer a similar bonus system as that on offer during the 2002 World Cup," said the KFA's Kim Ho-gon.

Members of the 2002 squad each got $250,000 for reaching the last four but only after a "contribution-based system" was rejected by the players.

South Korea, which is still technically at war with the North after the 1950-53 Korean war ended in a truce and not a peace treaty, also offers players exemptions from military service for reaching the second round of the World Cup.

The World Cup gets underway in Munich on Friday.

Under normal circumstances, it is mandatory for South Korean men to complete a 26-month stint in the armed forces.

Players such as Park Chu-young and Kim Jin-kyu would benefit from the exemption while Park Ji-sung was among several young players able to take advantage after the 2002 World Cup. *Reuters*

Toyota dumps ...

From page A27

and nailed only 14 of 30 free throws.

Earlier, Rain or Shine bowed out of the league with a convincing 90-65 victory over the Montaña Jewels for third place.

Also among the day's highlight was the Role Model award given to Alex Compton at halftime.

"Even if my basketball career here has ended, I've experienced and learned a lot in the Philippines," a teary-eyed Compton said in Filipino. The PBA already turned down the genial American's bid to play in the pros

"Officially, they already said no, I got the letter from the PBA last week," said Compton. "They don't want to change the rules."

The 32-year-old Compton logged in a team-high 17 points in 28 minutes of action in his final game in the league.

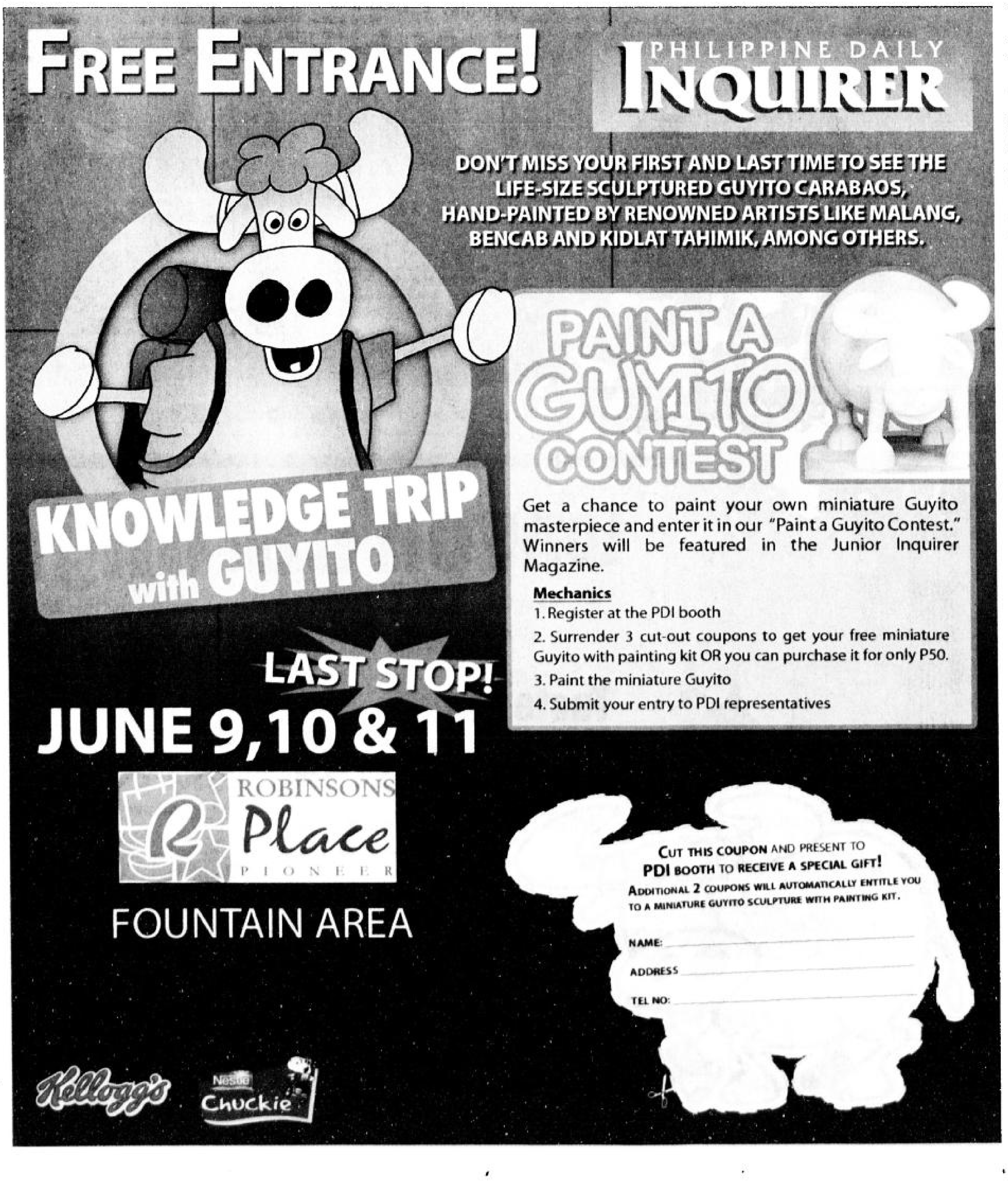
Aside from his impressive four-year PBL stint, the special tribute cited Compton "for being a gentleman on the court and a great individual off the court."

The Finals scores:

TOYOTA OTIS 68—Aban 14, Coronel 13, Devance 9, Andaya 6, Alcaraz 6, Rodriguez 5, Bautista 5, Fajardo 4, Daa 4, Aldave 2, Oreta 0, Casio 0.

HARBOUR CENTRE 51—Maierhofer 10, Yeo 10, Tenorio 9, Chia 4, Gamboa 4, Reyes 4, Alonzo 3, Gaco 3, Arana 2, Saguindel 2, Lanete 0, Coching 0.

Quarters: 16-6, 36-27, 51-39, 68-51



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Nestlé Chuckie

Roach defends Finkel lawsuit

REX "WAKEE" SALUD AND LAWYER JING Gacal "didn't go through the proper channels" when they negotiated Manny Pacquiao's upcoming fight against Oscar Larios of Mexico this July 2 at the Araneta Coliseum.

Freddie Roach, Pacquiao's American trainer, pointed this out in defending the decision of Manny's manager Shelly Finkel to sue Salud and Gacal for $7.5 million for arranging the fight on their own.

But Roach, in an interview with Boxingtalk, appeared confident that the two factions can iron out their differences.

He added that Finkel and the two defendants are slated to meet today, and he doesn't see any reason why they could not come up with a solution for the eventual dropping of the lawsuit. "Everyone will be here and we will get this straightened out," Roach said.

As far as Pacquiao is concerned, Roach said the Filipino fighter is very much focused on next month's bout and does not want any distraction. Roach added that his ward has been working against three sparmates at the gym, including two Russians.

Team Pacquiao will leave Los Angeles on June 19 for Manila where Pacquiao's training will be closed to the public except for a couple of public workouts for the media and fans.

Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor

Sr citizens active chess

THE FIRST SENIOR CITIZENS' ANNUAL chess tournament is set June 11-12 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Marikina Sports Park on McDonald Avenue corner Sumulong Highway. Tournament director Roland Santos said Rep. Del de Guzman of Marikina has taken care of the tournament fees for 200 entries. Trophies, and cash prizes totaling P100,000 will be at stake. The tournament will be supervised by National Chess Federation of the Philippines national arbiter Rudy Ibañez. Call, 934-7518 or 09219833388.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Jayvie's Godfather (3), Quick Pick (4), Blue Iris (1), Gelay's Charm (2)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Cara Dura (3), U Are My Sunshine (2), Angie Gray (1), Ilocos Pride (6)
Race 3—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Selfmade (5), Fanciful (8), Romanticist (1), Ho Ho Ho (3), La Perouse (2)
Race 4—(Tri)—Floral Arch (2), Movahead (5), Leave No Doubt (1)
Race 5—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Sutter's Quest (1), Please Don't Stop (11), Quant Je Puis (10), Mutiara (8), Run Like D'Wind (5), Bella Firenzo (6)
Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—Please Do (6), DOn't Ella (5), No Fear (1), Earl Gray (4)
Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Raven (9), Silent Operator (8), Ajeena.Black Widow (2), Kim Possible (6), Best Strike (4)
Race 8—(Qrt/Tri)—Rock Attack Attack (5), Daddy's Girl (4), Royal Rose (2), Fair Urduja (1)
Race 9—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Golden Brook (6), Lady Be Gold/Play It Again (5), Fancy Dancer (8), Habagat (9), Can And Will (10), Ilocos Princess (4)

PFF Night draws 400

FOUR HUNDRED FOOTBALL aficionados are expected to wine, dine and then honor pre-war football stars and outstanding players of the 1950's, 60's, 70's and 80's in the Philippine Football Federation's awards and recognition affair tonight at the Renaissance Makati Hotel in Makati City.

On the eve of the 2006 FIFA World Cup, just hours before the inaugural match between host Germany and Costa Rica, the PFF-Lufthansa Football Night kicks off with a sit-down-dinner that will feature local football notables like Manuel Nieto, Faustino Lim, Danny Weineki, Quintin Co, Eddie Llamas Jr, Mindo Fajardo, Henry Khan and Honesto Isleta.

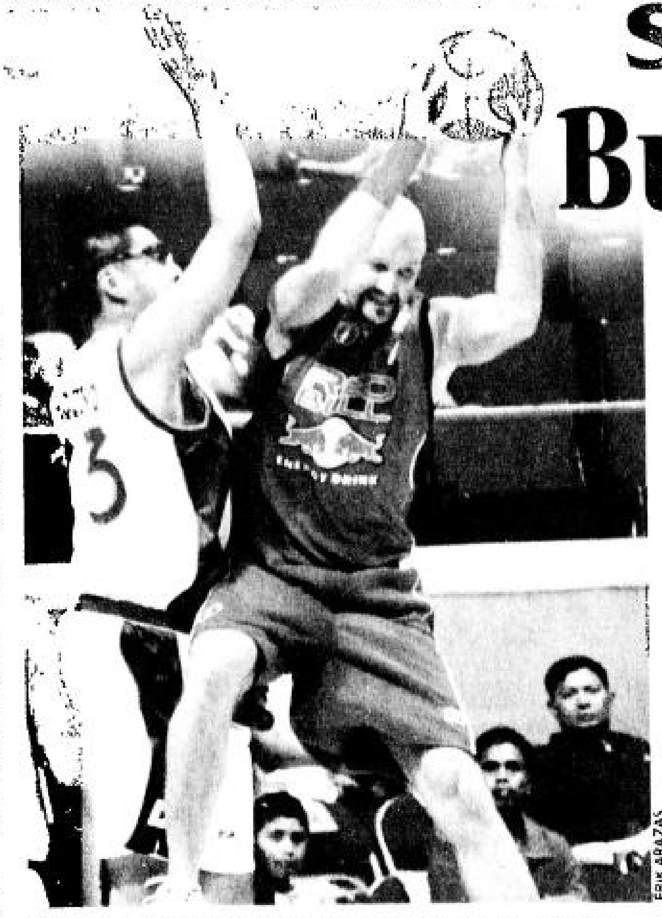
PFF President Johnny Romualdez, who is flying in from Germany this evening after attending the FIFA Congress, will welcome past and present football stars, former PFF presidents and backers from government, NGO's and corporations.

Christopher Zimmer, Lufthansa general manager for the Philippines, Guam and Micronesia, announced that 2-round trip tickets to Germany will be raffled during the affair. The PFF and Lufthansa have signed a yearlong partnership.

PFF VP Tony Chua said awarding of Mr and Ms Football of the Year will also be held.

Mark Villonwill be awarded as this year's Mr Football, while Edna Agravante and Andrea Yang will share the Ms Football award.

The PFF-Lufthansa Football Night is organized by Albert Robert and Edward Magallona.


ERIK ARAZAS

RED Bull's Mick Penisi (right) will be a vital cog tonight.

Bulls, Aces aim for 2-0

GAMES TODAY *(Araneta Coliseum)*
4:40 p.m.—Barangay Ginebra vs Red Bull
7:35 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Alaska

RED BULL CAPITALIZED ON BARANGAY Ginebra's manpower woes.

Alaska got enough ammunition from its starters in the stretch to come charging back from 20 points down and nip Coca-Cola.

Those were the Game 1 storylines, and the Bulls and the Aces don't actually care how their respective Game 2s go against Barangay Ginebra and Coca-Cola today as long as the results end up in their favor.

Red Bull and Alaska will try to ride the momentum of those victories for commanding 2-0 leads in the PBA Philippine Cup quarterfinals at the Araneta Coliseum.

Gifted with a healthy lineup, the Bulls will be eyeing to duplicate their 93-86 Game 1 win over the defending champion Gin Kings by trying to run its depleted bench to the ground in the 4:40 p.m. game.

But while the Bulls mangled the Kings, the Aces pulled off a 95-94 Game 1 win in the nick of time.

Nic Belasco fired a three-pointer with two-tenths of a second left and the Aces completed their rise from 20 points down to defeat the Tigers.

Alaska hopes to avoid the tightrope act in its 7:35 date with Coca-Cola this time.

"They (Kings) were just too stretched out and I guess that worked to our advantage," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao after Wednesday's win. "We have to come out as aggressive because (winning) this game is almost a clincher (for the series)."

Rommel Adducul, Rodney Santos, Jayjay Helterbrand, Andy Seigle and Aris Dimaunahan are recuperating from various injuries, and Ginebra coach Siot Tanquingcen had to resort to utilizing little-known players who proved themselves in the wildcard phase and helped bring the Kings this far.

Tanquingcen has gotten great games from Mark Macapagal, Allan Salangsang, Manny Ramos, Ervin Sotto and Egay Echavez in the wildcard but needs Mark Caguioa and Eric Menk to step up and carry the burden for the Kings in in this round.

"Injuries to them was a big factor for us," Guiao added. "But our psychological battlecry is to beat them even if they have a complete roster."

But recent history has not been kind to Ginebra whenever Caguioa lights it up against the Bulls—that has been the trend in their past three encounters since the classification round.

"The crowd is certainly with them (Kings)," Guiao said. "But if we win Game 2, we can break their spirits."

The Aces hope to come up with a tougher defense this time. *June Navarro*

Zamboanga IX blasts Cebuana

ZAMBOANGA SERVED NOTICE of its title aspirations by crushing Cebuana Lhuillier, 11-4, even as Antipolo, University of the Philippines and University of Santo Tomas came up with shutout wins yesterday in the National Open softball championship at the Rosario Sports Arena.

Powered by five national team mainstays, Zamboanga came back from an 0-3 deficit in the first inning to finish strong in the event organized by the Amateur Softball Association of the Philippines headed by Harry Angping.

But the most impressive win in the men's division came from Antipolo, which pulled off a 15-0 rout of Tacurong at the Taguig grounds.

Pitcher Sonny Acuña pitched three perfect innings while brothers Melchor and Gaspara Palacol scored a home run each in the first and Melvin Villegas added another homer in the third to finish off their rivals.

Over at the Barangay Sto. Niño field in Marikina, the women's team of UP and UST blanked their respective opponents for a rousing start in this event which lured 17 men's and eight women's squads.

Dionie Macasu also had a perfect three-inning pitching show as UP blanked Makati, 16-0, while UST blanked Mail and More, 4-0.

Northern Mindanao edged Rizal, 3-2, while Caloocan thumped La Salle, 6-2, in other women's action.

Southeast Asian Games veteran Edgardo Alvarez had two RBIs as Zamboanga tied Cebuana, 3-3, in the second inning. Lan Perez added another run for the Mindanao squad before a five-run splurge in the sixth settled the issue for Zamboanga.

OLYMPIC FESTIVAL: Taguig Mayor Freddie Tinga led the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement with the Philippine Olympic Committee for the city to host a basketball event that will pit UAAP against NCAA teams and an Olympic Day Fun Run at Fort Bonifacio as part of the Philippine Olympic Festival 2006. Seated from left are UAAP Commissioner Elmer Yanga, Vice Mayor George A. Elias, Mayor Tinga, POC chair Robert Aventajado and NCAA Commissioner Emilio Bernardino Jr. Standing from left are tournament director Nick Jorge, Jimmy Labampa, Red Dumuc, PBFI president Moying Martelino and Taguig Administrator Wilfredo Villar.

SPORTSWATCH

NAAP celebrates 45th year

THE NATIONAL ARCHERY ASSOCIATION OF THE Philippines (NAAP) celebrates its 45th anniversary today against a background of stiffer international competitions and with a fast-growing breed of excellent Filipino archers prepared to meet all challenges. Archery is fast becoming popular with the youths and other sports enthusiasts due to the vast number of medals and other awards harvested by NAAP from various international tournaments. Jasmin L. Figueroa, only 19, beat Italian Natalia Valeeva, a former world champion in archery and a two-time bronze medalist in the Barcelona Olympic Games in the 1/32 finals of the 2004 Athens Olympics. The women compound team placed fifth in the 2005 world archery championship with Amaya Paz placing 30th in the overall standing.

Birel drivers ready

BIREL Motorsports drivers gear up for the Asian Karting Open this weekend, eyeing a repeat of their 1-2-3 finish in the Formula 125 class recently in the third leg of the 2006 Shell Helix-Cali Superkarting Series at the Carmona Circuit Philippines. Marlon Stockinger pivoted Birel's strong campaign with his win in the Formula 125 class, clocking 14:16.202 in the 20-lap race. He's eyeing a second straight win in the Asian Karting Championship set June 9-11 following his triumph in the kickoff leg last month at the Shah Alam Circuit in Malaysia. Maico Angeles checked in 0.015 seconds behind Stockinger while Daniel Cleak took third place for Birel Motorsports, powered by Kartmore Racing Services, Kart Care Lubricants, Gatorade, Ford Motor Philippines, Top Gear Philippines and Auto Industriya.com.

Hillsborough shows way

LEO ORTIZ AND PHILIP BRODETT CAME THROUGH with 39 points apiece as Hillsborough pooled a 304 to beat La Vista by six points in the first round of the Nokia 2 group competition of the 2006 Nokia Cup intervillage golf tournament at The Riviera's Couples course Wednesday. Five other players put in 38 points each to underscore Hillsborough's balanced play. Rene Cuchon, Vic Guzman, Edward Puno, Greg Atienza, Joseph Perez combined for 190 points while Joe Barril tossed in 36 points for Hillsborough's 304 total. That was six points ahead of La Vista, which leaned on TJ Benitez's maximum 40 points and on 39s by Alex Naguiat and Raul Jorge for a 298 total.

SJC International Derby

THE CHAMPION OF THE FIRST SJC 9-Cock International Derby will be known today when its 103-fight finale sizzles at 2 p.m. at San Juan Coliseum. After two days of battle in the event sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000, only JTPA Sagupaan Complexor 3000 of sabong idol Patrick Antonio, Gene Batiea of Missisipi and Jun Topacio remained unbeaten with five points. With four points are entries Marga, CMB Sylvester, Gold Quest Maribrid, PAJT Sagupaan III, PEBL Sta. Cruz I, Gem Bob Cris, Stingray, Adrian and Tokwing, Alpha A PEBL, Alpha A June 24 and Nico. Call 725-5369, 725-6563 or 0917-8041691 (Ronnie).

PCC holds 75 fights today

IT'S CHAMPIONSHIP OR BUST FOR 50 METRO Manila cockers and breeders when Pasay City Cockpit's Daytime 3- cock derby gets going at 2 p.m. today with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsor. Aficionados can expect more than 75 fights. No less than P300,000 in guaranteed prize is on the line in this event being hosted by pit manager Eric dela Rosa, Butchoy Olano and Roming Vergara.

Spencer 5-cocker Monday

VETERAN COCKER-SPORTSMAN WILLIAM CO will host the Spencer 5-cock derby Monday, June 12, at Makati Coliseum. The event will be supported by B-Meg Derby Ace. Co said 30 entries or more are taking part on Monday's big event. The deadline for submission of entries is Sunday from 2-9 p.m. Call 896-3545 and 895-6475 for details.

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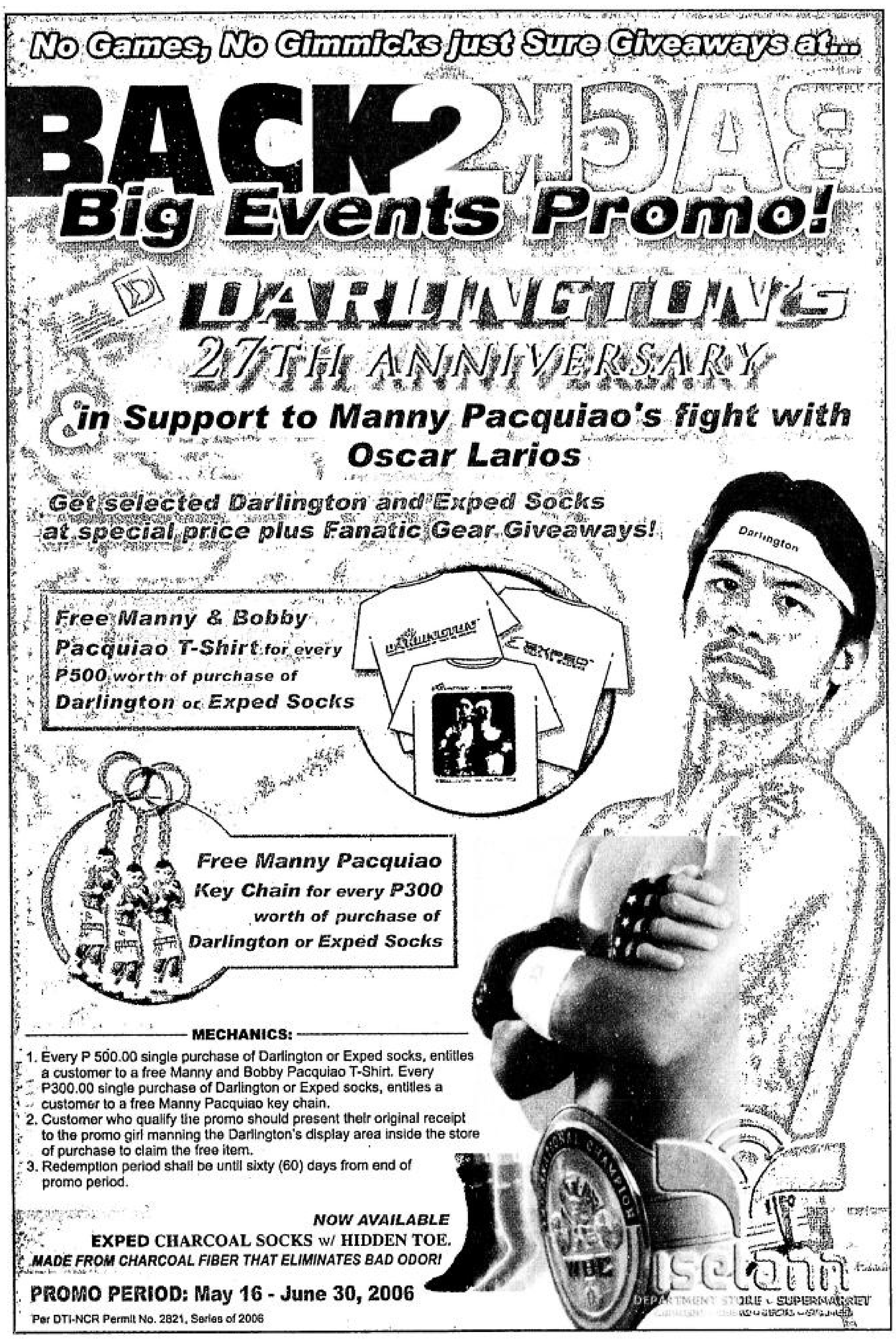
Tubod hosts First Olympic boxing festival

TEAMS FROM PANABO, BACOLOD, Bicol, Mandaluyong and the AFP are competing in the First Olympic boxing festival slated June 20-26 at the Mindanao Civic Center in Tubod, Lanao del Norte.

Some 300 boxers will show their wares in the event which will also serve as tryouts for future members of the national boxing training pool.

"We're proud to announce that our brothers from Mindanao will be able to watch the country's top amateur boxers in action," said Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines president Manny Lopez.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Tyrone misses perfect game

By Marc Anthony Reyes

TYRONE ONGPAUCO BARELY MISSED A perfect game as he took the lead in the men's Masters qualifying of the 35th PBC-Boysen International Open Tenpin Bowling Championships Wednesday night at the Green Valley lanes.

The 30-year-old Ongpauco came through with a 10-bagger on his fourth game but missed the seventh pin on his 11th ball to settle for a 287 in the Class O event.

With earlier games of 252-224-223, Ongpauco finished with a 986 total and a 246.50 average to grab the lead from Biboy Rivera, who fell to fifth place with a 242.75 average.

Diego Candano averaged 245.25 on lines of 246-268-225-242 to place second in the qualifying followed by Markwin Tee (244), World Cup 2002 champion CJ Rivera (235.50) and Takahiro Yoshida (241).

Suarez fashioned out the first 300 of the tournament in the Class O doubles last Saturday.

RJ Bautista (231.25) was sixth then came Arnold Lecaros (231.25), Frederick Ong (231), American coach Purvis Granger (229.75), Richie Poblete (227.50) and Nicodemus Valderrama (227).

Also making it to the men's graded masters qualifying were Franklin Pardo (233), Willie Natividad (221.75), Benny Almazar (218.50), Kenneth Chua (213.50), Enzo Cruz (213) and Marlon Sia (212.50) in the local field.

Edgar Barroga (212.25), Edward Coo (211.50), Nilo Penado (210.75), Mar Serac (210), Tobs Renacia (209.50), and Rhedd Viray (209.50) made up the mixed field.

Angeli Lao topped the Women's Graded Masters prelims with a 215.50 average, followed by Lara Posadas (215), former World Cup champion and Asian Games multiple gold winner Bong Coo (203.25) and Mades Arles (201.50).

Susan San Diego (192.25), Nelia Santos (184.25), Girlie Solis (182.25) and Jaymee Bautista (182) led the qualifiers in the mixed field.

Football, not basketball, best suited for Filipinos

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE SPECTACULAR MONTH-long World Cup soccer tournament gets going in Germany today. Like the Olympics, the World Cup is held once every four years and attracts millions of followers who are addicted to it.

Still, I find it surprising why many Filipinos are not interested in it. Most people I know are more interested in the NBA finals pitting the Miami Heat against the Dallas Mavericks. Not many are concerned with the outcome of the World Cup.

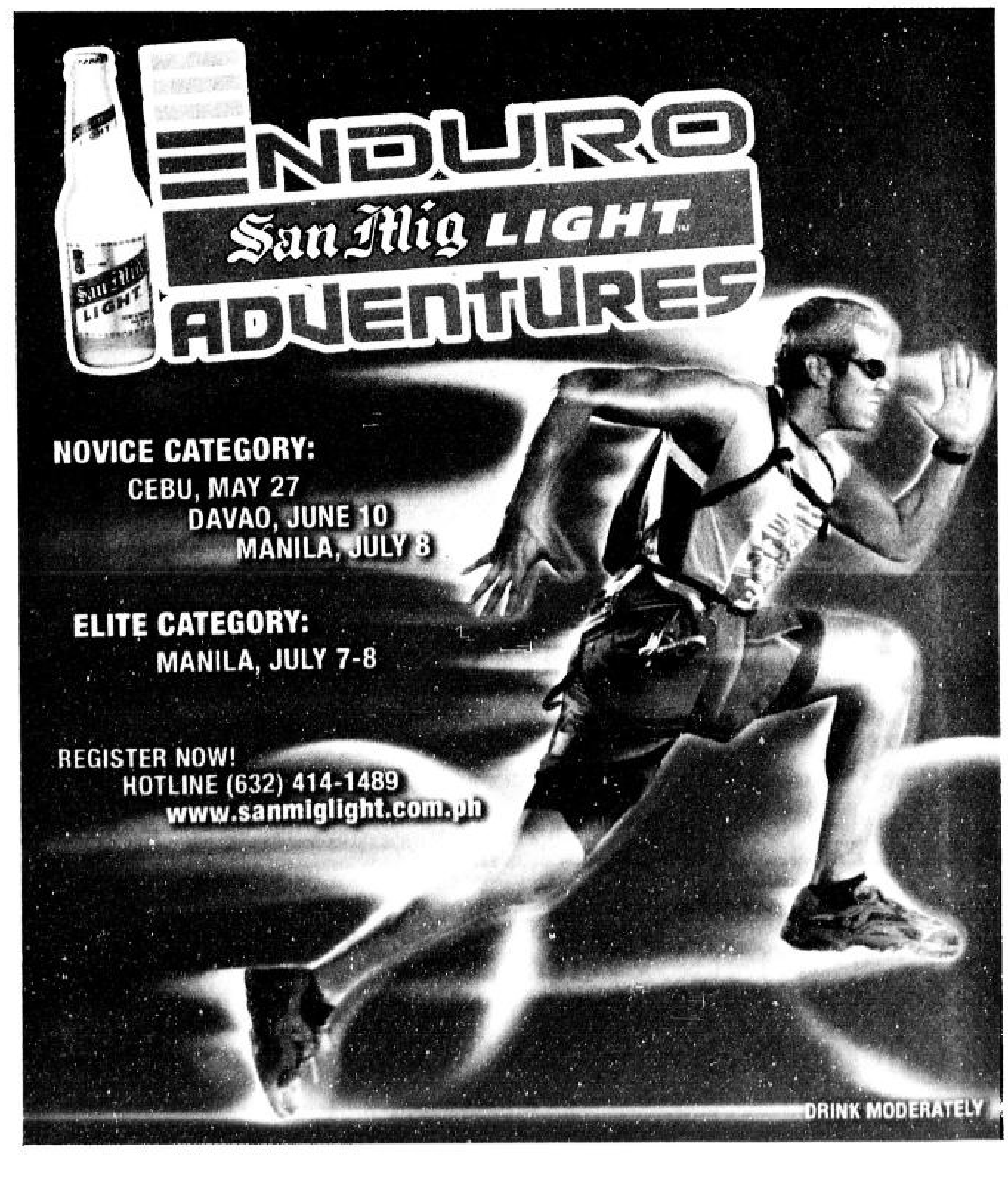
Our obsession with basketball is a perpetual puzzle. Filipinos have always had a passion for the dash-and-dribble game, a passion which even the legendary Carlos Loyzaga, the greatest Filipino basketball player of all time, once said was wrong "because there are other sports where the Filipino athletes have a better chance of winning honors."

By other sports, the now Australia-based Loyzaga probably meant those disciplines where height is not an advantage, including soccer (where his late father, Joaquin Loyzaga, was a many-time member of the Philippine team in the old Far Eastern Games), boxing, taekwondo, archery and billiards, bowling and chess if ever these last three events are included in the Olympic menu.

The Philippines used to be a soccer power in Asia during the pre-war years, finishing as perennial champions in the biennial Far Eastern Games which was launched in Manila in 1913. The Filipinos emerged champions. Among those who played for the country and became household names were Joaquin Loyzaga, Joaquin Lopez, the Letran Hall of Famer who played the longest (seven times) in the FE Games from 1913 to 1925; Jesus Cacho of Cacho Hermanos Printing Press, Dr. Jose Genato, grandfather of Maggie Henson, wife of Star columnist and TV analyst Quinito Henson; Zamboanga business magnate Celso Lobregat, Sen. Lorenzo Tañada Sr., who was an outstanding goalie from the University of the Philippines; Ildefonso Tronqued, Sebastian Ugarte, after whom the Ugarte Football Field in Makati City was named; and Celestino Martinez Sr., brother of basketball great Primitivo "Tibing" Martinez and father of Congressman Celestino Martinez of Cebu.

Why soccer?

As former POC president, retired Col. Julian Malonso, said, "In soccer, Filipinos can excel better because of their courage and the ball is on the ground. Basketball is not the sport for the Filipinos because height counts much. We should concentrate more on sports where height is not an advantage. Never mind basketball. Football is best suited for us."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The bars have been invaded. Cebu has been traversed. And only the victors remained standing as the first leg of the Enduro San Mig Light Adventures 2006 reached its finish line.

The Enduro Bar Adventure Racing (EBAR) last May 20 witnessed what probably is the tightest match up ever, as the winning team, Team Vudu led by Rico Valentin, Nestle Borromeo and Niño Abarquez, outhustled Team Cornejo by a mere 2.06 seconds.

Team Vudu 01 was indeed invincible as they conquered Cebu by being the top finishers for the first leg of the Enduro San Mig Light Adventures 2006 last May 27. Rico Valentin with Rodolfo Verdida Jr. and Christy Sevillano dictated the pace with an almost 30-minute lead over their closest rivals earning them P15,000 in cash prizes.

Davao is up next. June 10 is the day of reckoning for the Davaoeños. Are you up for the challenge of dominating the country's largest city? Better stretch those muscles anew while there's still time. Visit www.sanmiglight.com.ph or call (632) 414-1489 to sign up. Watch out also for the Manila leg on July 7-8 featuring Enduro's first 24-hour elite race.

Endure the adventure. And drink only the right alcohol, less-filling San Mig Light. Mahaba-habang inuman.

Spring Oil cagers win

AMAS, KIDAPAWAN—SPRING COOKING OIL-Parañaque thwarted North Cotabato's rally to prevail, 81-78, and tie idle northern division leader Bacchus/Harbour Centre in the 2006 Guerrero Brandy-NBC national basketball championship Wednesday at the Capitol gym here.

Bambi Barnson led the Cooking Oil Masters of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Parañaque Mayor Anjo Yllana with 21 points.

The victory gave Spring-Parañaque a 6-4 card in the tourney sponsored by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Nature's Spring Mineral Water, Spring Cooking Oil, Regent Foods, Firefly Lightings, Molten and Prime Channel.

Gov. Manny Piñol's Braves suffered their fifth loss in 11 games.

With Barnson, Danny Capobres and Aldrin Morante at the firing end, the Cooking Oil Masters jumped to a 33-24 first-quarter lead and held this all the way.

The Iloilo Warriors were playing defending champion Ozamiz Cotta at presstime.

Partners Cup up

THE THIRD PARTNERS CUP INVITATIONAL badminton tournament for architects, management and design consultants, contractors and suppliers of Robinsons Land Corp. will be held tomorrow at the Yonex Badminton Club.

Around 200 players from 70 companies are expected to join the event sponsored by Davies Paints and hosted by Cindy Kurleto.

Cash prizes as well as trophies and other valuable items are in store for the top finishers in the team and category levels. A celebrity exhibition game to be participated in by Frederick Go of Robinsons Land, John Estrada, Beth Tamayo and Isabel Granada is also slated.

Organizers are setting aside a raffle package that ensures prizes to be won by most of the participants. Tournament director for the event is coach Nelson Asuncion, father of the badminton aces Kennie and Kennevic.

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**
E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

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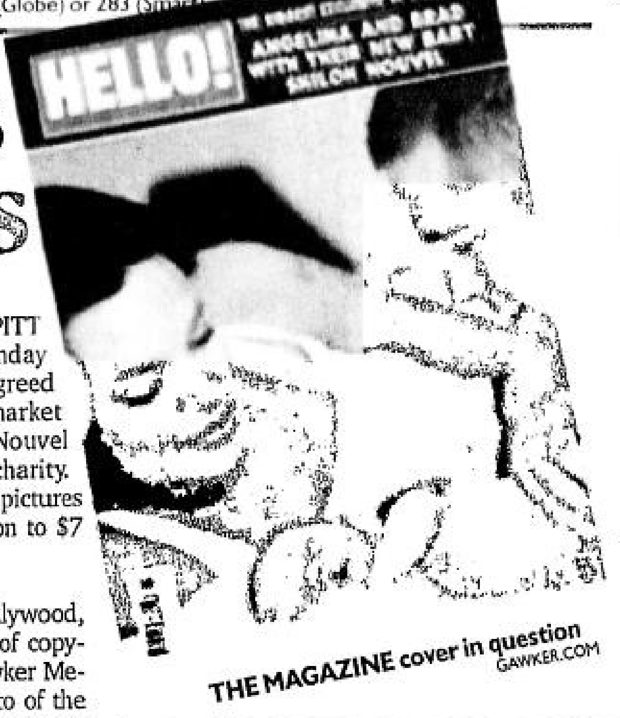
Precious baby pics



THE MAGAZINE cover in question
GAWKER.COM

HOLLYWOOD SUPERSTARS BRAD PITT and Angelina announced on Monday (Tuesday in Manila) that they had agreed to "let photo agency Getty Images market pictures of their newborn, Shiloh Nouvel Jolie-Pitt," with all proceeds going to charity.

Experts said worldwide rights to the pictures could sell for anywhere from $5 million to $7 million.

Serious business.

On Wednesday, our man in Hollywood, Ruben Nepales, alerted us to charges of copyright infringement being faced by Gawker Media which posted on its website a photo of the latest Hello! magazine with the Jolie-Pitt family on its cover.

Lockhar Steele, Gawker Media managing editor, rants:

"You post one little picture of Shiloh Nouvel Jolie-Pitt and, within seconds, the suits start calling. As it turns out, the Hello! cover photo of Shiloh and her sexy baby lips is very much authentic, so much so that Time Inc. lawyers were all up in our grill within an hour of this morning's posting. As we were informed by Time Inc. counsel Nick Jollymore (cute!), by posting the Hello! cover, Gawker was infringing on People's [magazine, published by Time Inc.] very exclusive, very expensive US rights to the baby pictures. We think it's small enough to fall under fair use, and we'd gladly replace the Hello! cover with a People one featuring the baby, but no dice. And so Time Inc. continues on its counseled quest, creating almost enough fun to distract everyone from their more dismal problems."

Jollymore said Time Inc.'s legal department was "coordinating with the lawyers for Hello!," a British publication. Time Inc. wants a meeting with Gawker lawyers "immediately."

Steele's defense: "As part of Gawker's ongoing coverage of the media industry, we're firm in our right to report on Hello's treatment of the story, one of the biggest celebrity media news stories of the year."

The website offered to substitute a People magazine cover featuring the image in lieu of

PRECIOUS/ A2-2

'Anino's' plea at a dead end

By Marinel R. Cruz

"I'M WILLING TO SIT DOWN WITH THEM, but not to further discuss their appeal. The decision of the organizational committee (Orgcom) is irreversible."

Thus declared Nestor Jardin, president of the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP), referring to an appeal to revoke the disqualification of Jon Lazam's "Mga Anino sa Apuhap" as finalist in the full-length feature competition of this year's Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival.

NESTOR Jardin
RODEL ROTONI

Jardin is festival director.

On May 15, Lazam sent a letter to Laurice Guillen-Feleo, competition director, seeking an audience with the committee to appeal his case. Lazam co-wrote "Anino" with Ronald Verzo.

"But I'm glad to hear they have decided to go on filming," Jardin told INQUIRER Entertainment in an interview at his CCP office. "In the future, should they need the help of CCP or the Cinemalaya Foundation Inc. in promoting, distributing or premiering their movie, I'd be happy to help."

The Cinemalaya Orgcom on May 10 announced the disqualification of "Anino" based on two grounds: 1) the production group's failure to submit certain requirements on time; and 2) the group's proposed counterpart financing scheme that was deemed "unacceptable" by the Orgcom.

Ten finalists, including "Anino," were earlier selected to compete in the full-length feature film category. Cinemalaya Foundation Inc. gives each finalist P500,000 as partial subsidy.

"We make it clear that it is a grant, not meant to finance the entire film," explained Jardin. "Part of their responsibility is to raise the balance. Each finalist should present a credible financing scheme. This is to assure Cinemalaya that after it hands over the grants, the finalists can go ahead and produce the film."

Jardin also stressed that Cinemalaya was determined to avoid a repeat of last year's "unfortunate" experience. "We were so lenient last year that, a few days before the festival was to open, we still didn't have the materials."

Meanwhile, he announced the 10 finalists chosen out of 108 entries under the short film feature category: "10:25 ng Gabi" by Reggie Gulle, "Gee-Gee at Waterina" by Dennis J. Teodosio and M. Tanangco, "Kwarto" by Jose Em-

'ANINO'S'/ A2-7

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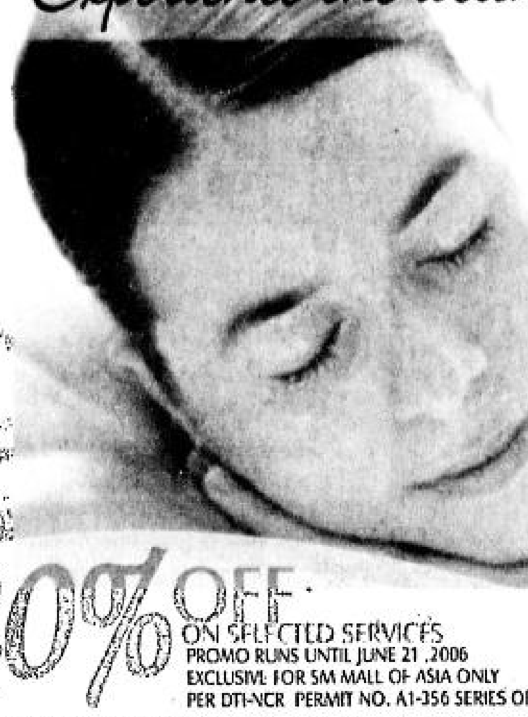

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BEAR BRAND AND MAYOR VI LAUNCH

LAKI SA GATAS

Nestlé
BEAR BRAND

In response to the declining milk consumption in the country, BEAR BRAND, the Philippines' leading milk brand in terms of sales, and respected actress and Lipa City Mayor Vilma Santos recently launched a nationwide milk education program called *"Laki sa Gatas."*

PADRE VALERIO MALABANAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The program's pilot run was held at the Padre Valerio Malabanan Elementary School in Lipa City and was attended by hundreds of children, teachers and parents who all eagerly listened to Mayor Vi as she stressed the importance of drinking "not just one but two glasses of BEAR BRAND everyday."

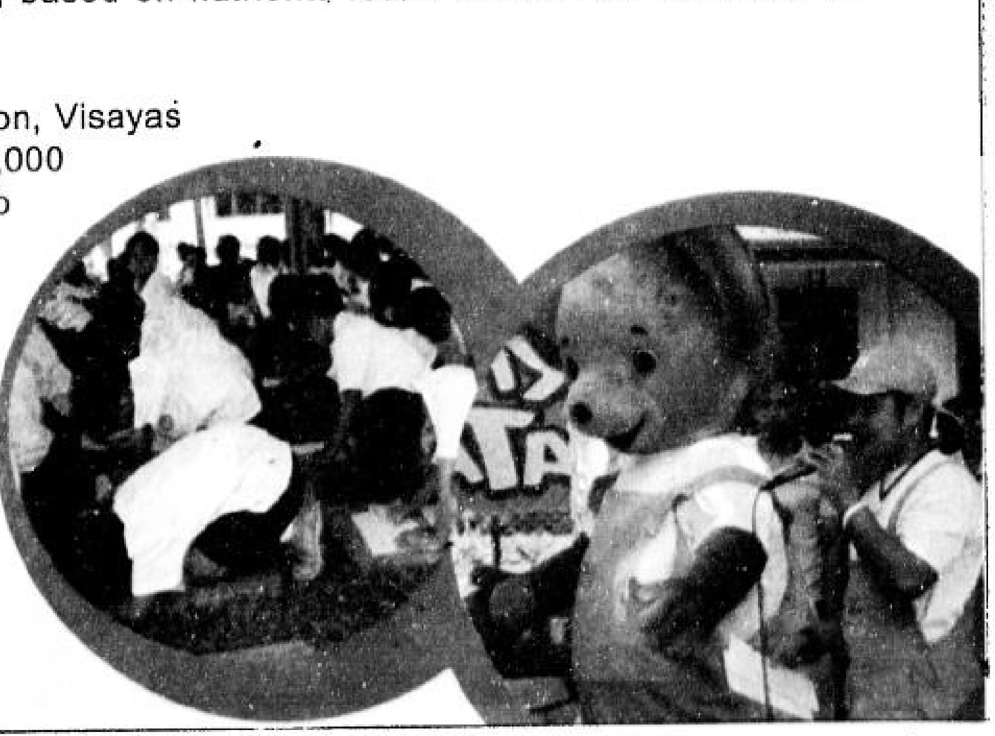
Mayor Vi also urged mothers to make their children's health their priority and noted that the P13.00 a day they would spend for two glasses of BEAR BRAND is a very good investment in their children's physical and mental development.

Milk consumption in the country has dropped from 21 to 18 liters per capita in the last five years. In 2005, total consumption of powdered milk, the bulk of milk consumed locally, decreased by 7% from 2004. This means that at current levels, Filipinos, including children, on the average are drinking less than one glass of milk each day.

Milk is the single best food that can help children grow physically and mentally, with carbohydrates, proteins, vitamins and minerals -- particularly calcium for strong bones and teeth -- nearly all the basic nutrients that a growing child needs. Children who do not drink milk are being deprived of an important food that can help maximize their growth, development and health, all the way into adulthood.

It is for this reason that Nestlé, with its global knowledge on milk and nutrition, and BEAR BRAND, the country's leading milk, are embarking on *"Laki sa Gatas"*, an initiative that aims to promote, primarily among mothers, the nutritional importance of milk and the value of drinking at least two glasses a day for children 4-8 years old, based on nutrients found in milk and the make-up of the average diet.

The program will visit 800 schools in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, and will target some 400,000 children and 250,000 mothers from June to December this year. Like in the launch, each session will feature a presentation by a certified nutritionist for mothers on key nutrition facts on milk, educational games for children, and other activities stressing the benefits of milk.



**Watch out for "LAKI SA GATAS"
In a school near you.**

Precious baby pics

From page A2-1

the Hello! cover.

In response, Time Inc. demanded that the Hello! cover be "taken down."

As for Steele's claim of fair use by virtue of the size of the image on the website, Jollymore scoffed: "Your thumbnail is 2.5 x 3.5 inches on my screen. With all respect, this is not 'fair use' but willful copyright infringement in an attempt to use a valuable photograph to enhance your site."

The Hello! issue in question hits newsstands Thursday in the US.

With a report from Reuters

2ND WEEK!
matthew mcconaughey
sarah jessica parker
MTRCB RATING PG-13
To leave the nest, some men just need a little push.
failure to launch
www.FailureToLaunchMovie.com
Distributed by Solar Entertainment Corporation

HE'S BACK!

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL 2006

2 CARS
MTRCB GP
11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00

3 OMEN 666
MTRCB R-13
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

4 THE INSIDE MAN
MTRCB PG-13
1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE
TAKE THE LEAD / XMEN 3
1:25, 6:35 / 4:00, 9:10
MTRCB PG-13

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

Catch the Cineplex Special

Catch the French Film Festival 2006 at the Shang Cineplex from June 9-18! Celebrate French Spring as you enjoy a selection of critically acclaimed films, i.e L'Esquive (12nn), Riviera (2:40 pm), The Raven (6:20pm) and Clean (10pm) at the Cinema 1. Tickets are at P50 / person.

Call 633-7851 loc. 171 or 633-7227 for more details

Shangri-La Plaza

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

This week's BIG Release:

Cars

FREE FACE/HAND PAINTING

for those who will watch the movie on June 8-12, 2006! Just present your ticket at CARS booth located at the Eastwood cinema lobby from 3pm - 10pm during the promo dates stated above.

(FIRST COME FIRST SERVE)
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For inquiries, call
687-6963
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MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1	THE OMEN	1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00	R-13
2	CARS	11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30	GP
3	THE INSIDE MAN	12:10, 2:55, 5:40, 8:25, 11:05	PG-13
4	TAKE THE LEAD	11:40, 2:25, 5:10, 7:55, 10:35	PG-13

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41

X-MEN: THE LAST STAND PG13 12:40,3:00,5:20, 7:40,10:00	CARS G 11:40,2:20,5:00, 7:40,10:20	TAKE THE LEAD PG13 2:45,5:15,7:45,10:15
THE INSIDE MAN PG13 2:45,5:15,7:46,10:15	FAILURE TO LAUNCH PG13 1:30,3:35,5:40,7:45,9:50	OMEN 666 R13 1:10,3:30,5:50, 8:10,10:30

MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

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GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
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NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1	TAKE THE LEAD	11:10, 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:30	PG13
CINEMA 2	X- MEN 111	11:50, 2:25, 5:00, 7:35, 10:10	PG13

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

PROMENADE
GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 3	THE INSIDE MAN	11:45, 2:30, 5:15, 8:00, 10:35	PG13
CINEMA 4	CARS	11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00	GP
CINEMA 5	OMEN 6+6+6	10:30, 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10	R13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

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JUNE 9,10,16,17,23,24,30	NINA in VERY MANILOW	9:00PM
JULY 8,2006	GLADYS GUEVARA	9:00PM

TEATRINO
PROMENADE GREENHILLS

EVERY MONDAY	DANCE NIGHT	7:00PM
JUNE 9,10,16,17,2006	WERE STILL HOT "THE MUSICAL" FOR INQUIRIES PLS CALL 722-4532 LOC.116	8:00PM

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AT THE CINEMAS
THX
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Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification please call 729 7777

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
G1 GLORIETTA 1	THE OMEN	X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	MANAY PO	ALL ABOUT LOVE			
G4 GLORIETTA 4	CARS	THE OMEN	THX INSIDE MAN 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:00, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	FAILURE TO LAUNCH	TAKE THE LEAD	X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	THE DA VINCI CODE
GB1 GREENBELT 1	X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	THE OMEN					
GB3 GREENBELT 3	THX CARS 2:30, 5:10, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	THX THE OMEN 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	TAKE THE LEAD 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	X-MEN THE LAST STAND 2:20, 4:30, 6:40, 8:50, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	INSIDE MAN 1:15, 3:45, 6:15, 8:45, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	THX CARS	INSIDE MAN	THE OMEN	TAKE THE LEAD	X-MEN: THE LAST STAND		
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	THE OMEN	CARS	FAILURE TO LAUNCH	AQUAMARINE / X-MEN			
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	THE OMEN	CARS	TAKE THE LEAD	INSIDE MAN	X-MEN: THE LAST STAND		

At the Activity Center

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Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm
Greenbelt - 752 4853; from 11am to 12mn
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
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AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
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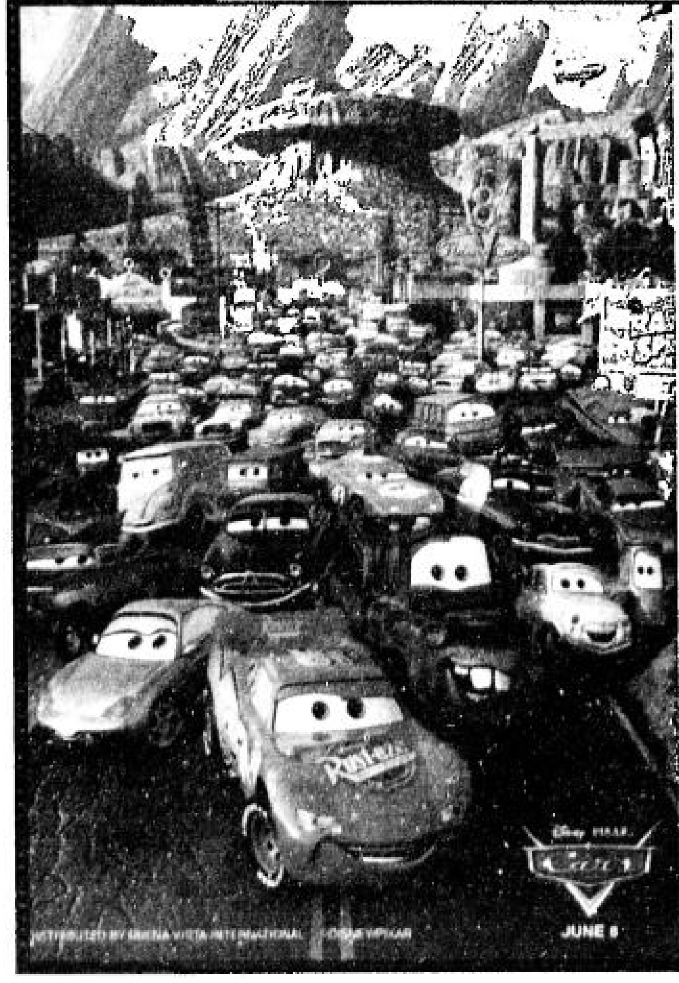

Ayala Malls CINEMAS & Nestlé KOKO KRUNCH

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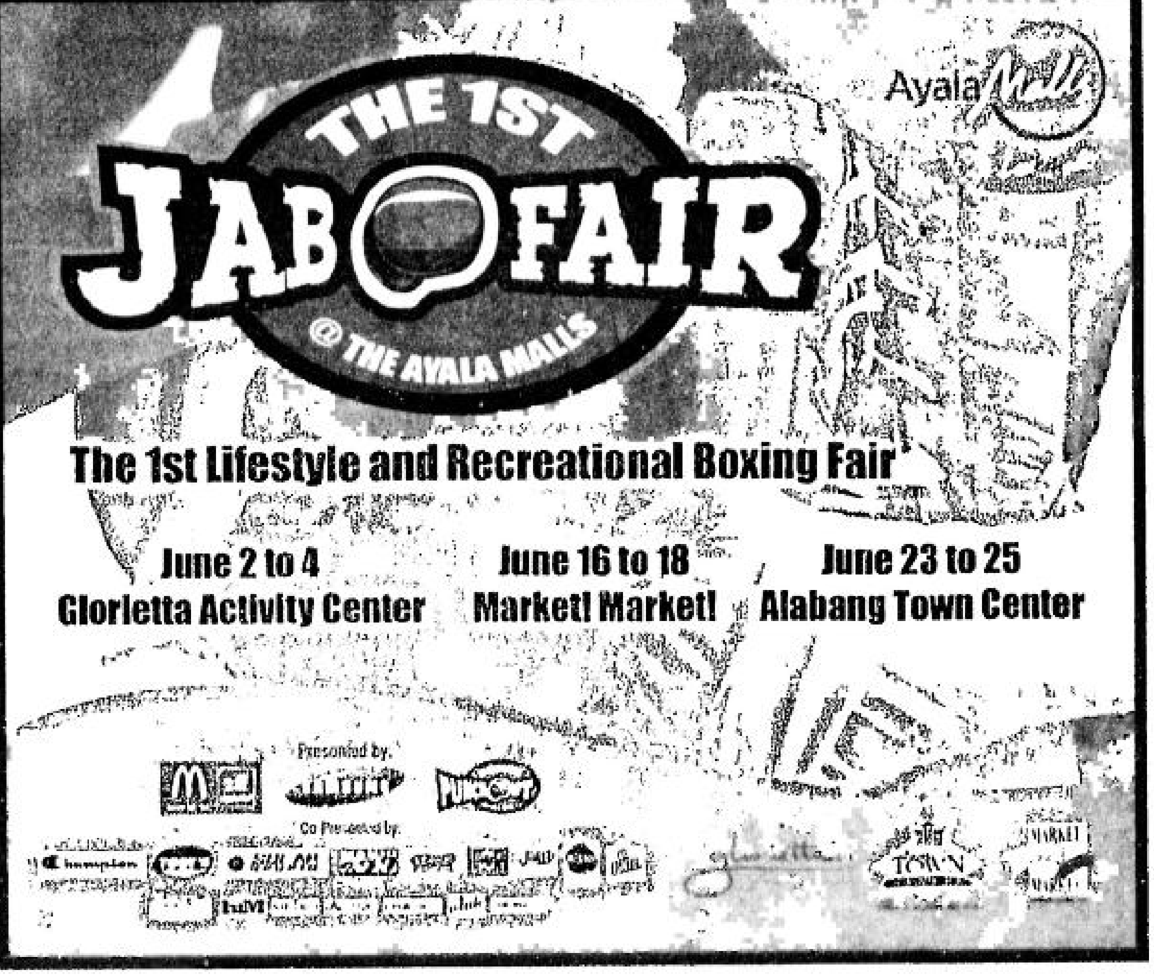
at the Glorietta 4 Cinema Lobby on June 10 and 11, 2006 from 10:30 AM to 8:00 PM. Gear up for one full day of non-stop games and surprises for the whole family!



Madonna and Meryl dazzle in LA shows

LOS ANGELES—BEFORE WE GET TO Madonna, let me pose a question about **Meryl Streep**: Is there anything that the greatest actress of our generation cannot do?

Last week, I watched Meryl in her new film, "A Prairie Home Companion," and in a show held at the Hollywood Bowl in connection with the film. Ms Streep sang in both and guess what? She sings very well—not *puwede na*; this multi-awarded actress can really croon.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

Madonna magic

OK, now to the mistress of (image) re-invention, Madonna. I am not a fan, but I have to concede that she gave a very good show for the LA stop of her "Confessions" tour at the Staples Center last Saturday evening.

The show started almost an hour late but the soldout crowd waited patiently, an air of excitement and anticipation building among the followers of the pop diva. In the meantime, a man dressed in **Madonna**'s signature look for this tour (think equestrienne/S&M goddess), complete with black riding hat and crop, enjoyed the attention of the concert-goers.

Finally, the lights dimmed and the show's multiple screens showed a film, in dramatic black and white, of Madonna, dressed in the above-mentioned ensemble, approaching in slow motion on a horse. Then a huge disco ball slowly descended from the Staples' cavernous ceiling, landed on the edge of the extended stage ramp beside our seats, opened like a flower and in it was...Madonna. She emerged right in front of us! The crowd went wild, stood up and virtually stayed on its feet throughout the show which ran for almost two hours.

Madonna struck various guises and poses and snuck in several *pa*-socially relevant messages. Here are our fleeting impressions of the Material Girl who has defied all expectations and managed to sustain a thriving career:

•Mostly wearing skimpy leotards in the show, Madonna is toned, yes, but contrary to our expectations, she does not look like a muscled Amazon. The singer-actress' physique is amazing for a 47-year-old woman—not anorexic lean but trim yet with enough flesh to make her very attractive.

•Being extraordinarily fit, she just danced and danced and hardly paused. We couldn't keep up with her. Did we say she danced? We wished for the relief of more slow numbers so we could sit down and rest our tushes. But she even performed "La Isla Bonita" as if on overdrive.

Yes, Mrs. **Guy Ritchie** approached this show like a gym class. In fact, she berated several audience members in front for sitting down while everybody else stood up, bounced, gyrated and participated in the aerobics class, er, "Confessions" show. "I don't like that—sitting down," she reprimanded the potato couches in front of her. I immediately stood up.

•Later, I found out that she had asked the management of Staples Center (and reportedly other venues for this tour) to keep the temperature at warm. Whether she asked for minimal air conditioning so the air would not dry up and affect her vocal cords, or to keep the atmosphere hot and lively, was not determined.

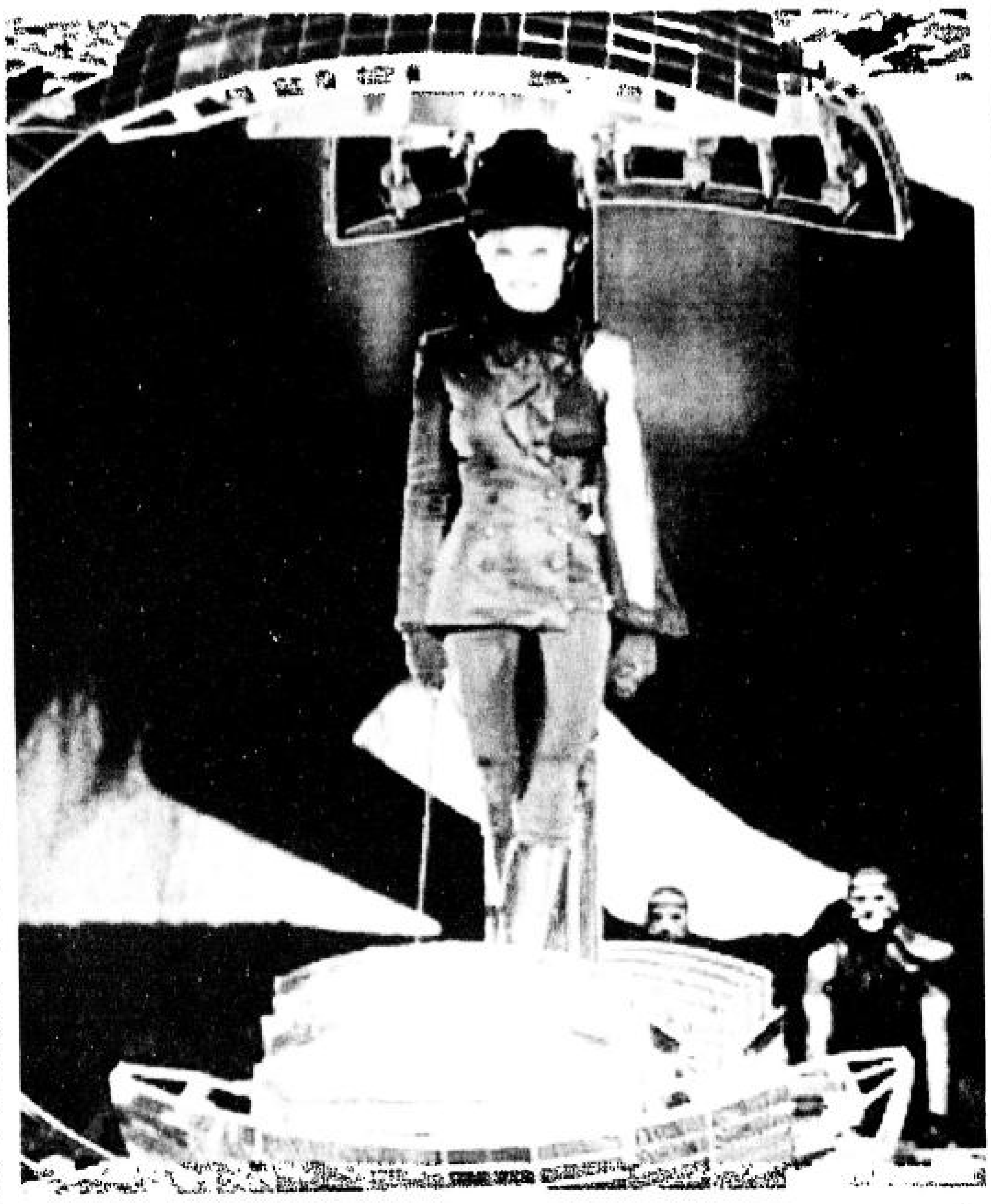
•When she was not dancing, she was lowered from the aforementioned ball, raised from a cross, hung from beams, writhed on the floor or crawled on all fours. She rode, hugged and gyrated suggestively on a gleaming saddle slash stripper's pole. Imagine an X-rated one-saddle carousel ride. The thing did go up and down, round and round like a sadomasochist's dream vision of a carousel.

•About the cross (it gleamed like a disco ball)—Madonna not only hung from it like Jesus; she also had a crown of thorns. But before you spit out the word "blasphemy," let's put the number in context: As she sang "Live to Tell," the video screens flashed images of poverty-stricken children around the world. These images injected a somber element to what could have been merely garish spectacle.

•In another number where the performer turned the spotlight over to the video screens, images of talking heads from **Saddam Hussein, Mao Tse Tung, Osama Bin Laden**, to President **George W. Bush** (interspersed with photos from the war in Iraq), **Condoleeza Rice**, British Prime Minister **Tony Blair** and **Adolf Hitler** appeared as this liberal gal repeated lyrics like "Don't say forgive me," "I've heard it all before" and "Don't speak." The audience lapped it up, of course.

•In another segment, a dancer portrayed a captive, covered in a *burka*, frantically attempting to escape from a cage. The show was a dizzying succession of message-laden images like this and of Madonna as various pop icons: as **John Travolta** in a white suit and his "Saturday Night Fever" moves; as a rock goddess riffing on a guitar; as a Dancing Queen, with those two words emblazoned on her cape, and so on.

•If the headliner was this busy, just imagine what the 20-plus backup dancers were doing every second. When a huge set, as large as a truck, descended from the ceiling, the dancers leaped, tumbled and bounded from it like a jungle gym. They roller-skated onstage and braked with precision before they could fly off and into the crowd, dropped into a hole (into what we hoped were mattresses underneath), and engaged in a choreographed battle of the sexes.



MATERIAL Girl pops out of a giant disco ball.

MERYL STREEP. The woman can sing, too!

•And oh yeah, incidentally, Madonna sang, too. Credit the three hours of exercise she reportedly does every day—she never gasped or went out of breath while she danced and warbled a set that was mostly from her "Confessions on a Dance Floor."

•For all the razzmatazz, the show ended rather abruptly. With all the buildup, I expected a grander finale, more than just a shower of gold balloons. Instead, a curtain, emblazoned with the words "Have you confessed lately?" simply encircled and covered the main stage. There wasn't even an encore number.

Old-fashioned fun

The Hollywood Bowl show in which Meryl Streep guest-starred was an entirely different animal.

Meryl stars in the film version of "A Prairie Home Companion," an acclaimed radio show with a huge following in the US. Set in the fictional town of Lake Wobegon, the show, written and hosted by **Garrison Keillor**, is a mix of funny skits (accompanied by good old-fashioned radio sound effects), live music and jokes. I myself enjoy listening to the show's mix of good, old-fashioned fun and dig at contemporary issues and events. It makes you wish that a quaint town like Lake Wobegon, with its amusing characters, really did exist.

Coinciding with the release of the movie version directed by no less than **Robert Altman**, Garrison presented "A Prairie Home Companion" at LA's famed summer outdoor concert venue, the Hollywood Bowl. Meryl joined **Virginia Madsen** and **John C. Reilly** and the original cast of the radio show before a crowd of 15,000. A few days earlier, I watched the film and was astounded by Meryl's singing prowess. She and **Lily Tomlin** play sisters who make up a folk/country music duo.

At the Bowl, Meryl stole the show with five songs from the movie, including a duet with Garrison. To give you an idea of the nostalgic songs featured in the soundtrack, "Red River Valley," which was taught to me in grade school, is one of the tracks. Meryl, of course, also parlayed her well-known talent at affecting different accents and voices when she played various characters in the skits.

Virginia was a riot as a vapid Hollywood star in one skit. Too bad John's singing partner in the movie, **Woody Harrelson**, was not around. Their songs and jokes as a ribald cowboy duo add to the film's highly entertaining appeal. Also in the cast are **Lindsay Lohan** as Meryl's daughter, **Tommy Lee Jones** and **Kevin Kline**.

'Cavite' run extended

"Cavite," the independent film by Fil-American co-directors **Ian Gamazon** and **Neill Dela Llana**, has been extended for a third week in New York (at Cinema Village) and Los Angeles (at the Westside Pavilion). The movie received a fresh set of highly favorable reviews (the American critics' verdicts have been virtual raves—truly remarkable, I must say) on its US theatrical release.

IndieWIRE listed "Cavite" as the sixth-highest ($8,000 plus) per screen average among indie films during its opening weekend. Controversial filmmaker **Michael Moore** has seen the film and now, director **Fernando Meirelles** ("City of God," "The Constant Gardener") is reportedly very curious and is asking for a copy of the movie so he can watch it.

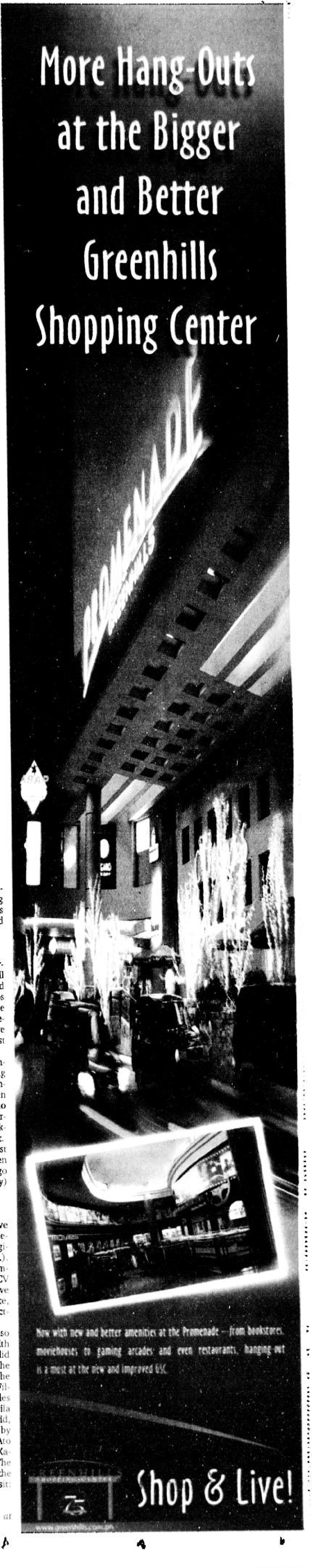
"Cavite," which opens in Manila in August through distributor Unitel Pictures, will open in San Francisco (Lumiere) and San Diego (Hillcrest) on June 16 and in Seattle (Varsity) on June 30.

Another Fil-Am indie

Another Filipino-American indie, **Steve Mallorca**'s "Slow Jam King," is opening theatrically today (Friday, June 9) at the ImaginAsian Cinema in New York (239 East 59 St.). Winner of Asian Cinevision's Emerging Filmmaker award (other recipients from ACV have been **Ang Lee** and **Mira Nair**), Steve **Mallorca** is a true auteur. Get this: he wrote, photographed, edited, produced, and directed the film.

As if that were not enough, Steve also wrote the score and performed the songs with his band. During his spare time, he also did the film's website and designed the look of the posters and postcards. "Slow Jam King" is the opening night feature of the week-long Filipino Film and Arts Fest which includes revered classics by **Ishmael Bernal** ("Manila By Night") and **Lino Brocka** ("Ina, Kapatid, Anak") as well as important new works by **Ditsi Carolino** ("Riles" and "Bunso") and Ato Bautista ("Sa Aking Pagkagising sa Aking Kamulatan"), plus a sneak screening of "The Blossoming of Maximo Oliveros." For the complete film fest schedule, visit: www.theimaginasian.com.

(E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.)



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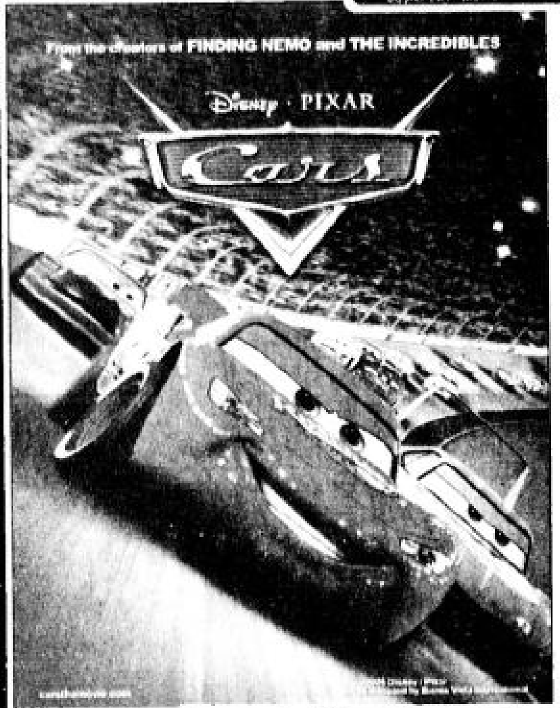
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12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00
PREMIERE CINEMA
ALL ABOUT LOVE
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
XMEN III
CENTERSTAGE
RESERVED
1. THE OMEN
2. TAKE THE LEAD
3. INSIDE MAN
4. CARS
5. XMEN III
6. MANAY PO

THE PODIUM CINEMA
CINEMA 1
CARS
CINEMA 2
TAKE THE LEAD

SM NORTH EDSA
1. XMEN III
2. ALL ABOUT LOVE
3. CARS
4. THE OMEN
5. M:I:III
6. TAKE THE LEAD
7. MANAY PO
8. INSIDE MAN

SM CITY BICUTAN
1. THE OMEN
2. CARS
3. ALL ABOUT LOVE
4. XMEN III

SM MEGACINEMA
1. POSEIDON
2. INSIDE MAN
3. XMEN III
4. CARS
5. CHAOS
6. THE OMEN
7. OVER THE HEDGE
8. BENCHWARMERS
9. TAKE THE LEAD
10. M:I:III
11. ALL ABOUT LOVE
12. MANAY

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1. CARS
2. INSIDE MAN
3. THE OMEN
4. XMEN III
5. M:I:III
6. CHAOS
7. ALL ABOUT LOVE
8. TAKE THE LEAD
9. MANAY PO

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1. BENCHWARMERS
2. OVER THE HEDGE
3. CHAOS
4. INSIDE MAN
5. MANAY PO
6. THE OMEN
7. XMEN III
8. CARS
9. ALL ABOUT LOVE
10. POSEIDON
11. M:I:III
12. TAKE THE LEAD

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1. CARS
2. MANAY PO
3. ALL ABOUT LOVE
4. XMEN III

SM CITY STA. MESA
1. THE OMEN
2. THE INSIDE MAN
3. XMEN III
4. CARS
5. ALL ABOUT LOVE
6. MANAY PO
7. BENCHWARMERS
8. TAKE THE LEAD
9. M:I:III
10. CHAOS

SM CITY MANILA
1. THE OMEN
2. TAKE THE LEAD
3. POSEIDON
4. INSIDE MAN
5. XMEN III
6. XMEN III
7. ALL ABOUT LOVE
8. MANAY PO
9. CHAOS
10. M:I:III
11. BENCH WARMERS
12. CARS

SM CITY SAN LAZARO
1. THE OMEN
2. XMEN III
3. TAKE THE LEAD
4. INSIDE MAN
5. CARS
6. ALL BOUT LOVE

SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA
1. CARS
2. THE OMEN
3. XMEN III
4. ALL ABOUT LOVE

SM CITY SUCAT
1. CARS
2. THE OMEN
3. ALL ABOUT LOVE
4. XMEN III

movietime Red Carpet PREMIERE movietime

Garfield 2:
A Tail of Two Kitties
June 10, 2006
SM Megamall Cinema 1

Kapag Tumibok
Ang Puso
(Not Once But Twice)
June 12, 2006
SM Mall of Asia Cinema 3

GARFIELD 2
OPENS JUNE 14

KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO

LUZON

SM CITY BAGUIO
1. CARS
2. THE OMEN
3. ALL ABPOUT LOVE
4. XMEN III

SM CITY MARILAO
1. CARS
2. ALL ABOUT LOVE
3. MANAY PO
4. XMEN III

SM CITY BACOOR
1. POSEIDON
2. M:I:III
3. XMEN III
4. MANAY PO
5. THE OMEN
6. ALL ABOUT LOVE
7. CARS
8. SILENT HILL

SM CITY BATANGAS
1. XMEN III
2. ALL ABOUT LOVE
3. SENTINEL
4. MANAY PO

SM CITY LUCENA
1. XMEN II
2. ALL ABOUT LOVE
3. MANAY PO
4. BENCHWARMERS

SM CITY CLARK
NOW OPEN
1. THE OMEN
2. XMEN III
3. CARS
4. MANAY PO
5. REINCARNATION
6. ALL ABOUT LOVE

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1. THE OMEN
2. CARS
3. XMEN III
4. MANAY PO
5. REINCARNATION
6. ALL ABOUT LOVE

SM CITY MOLINO
1. ALL ABOUT LOVE
2. XMEN III
3. MANAY PO
4. CHAOS

SM CITY STA. ROSA
1. MANAY PO
2. ALL ABOUT LOVE
3. CARS
4. XMEN III

VISAYAS MINDANAO

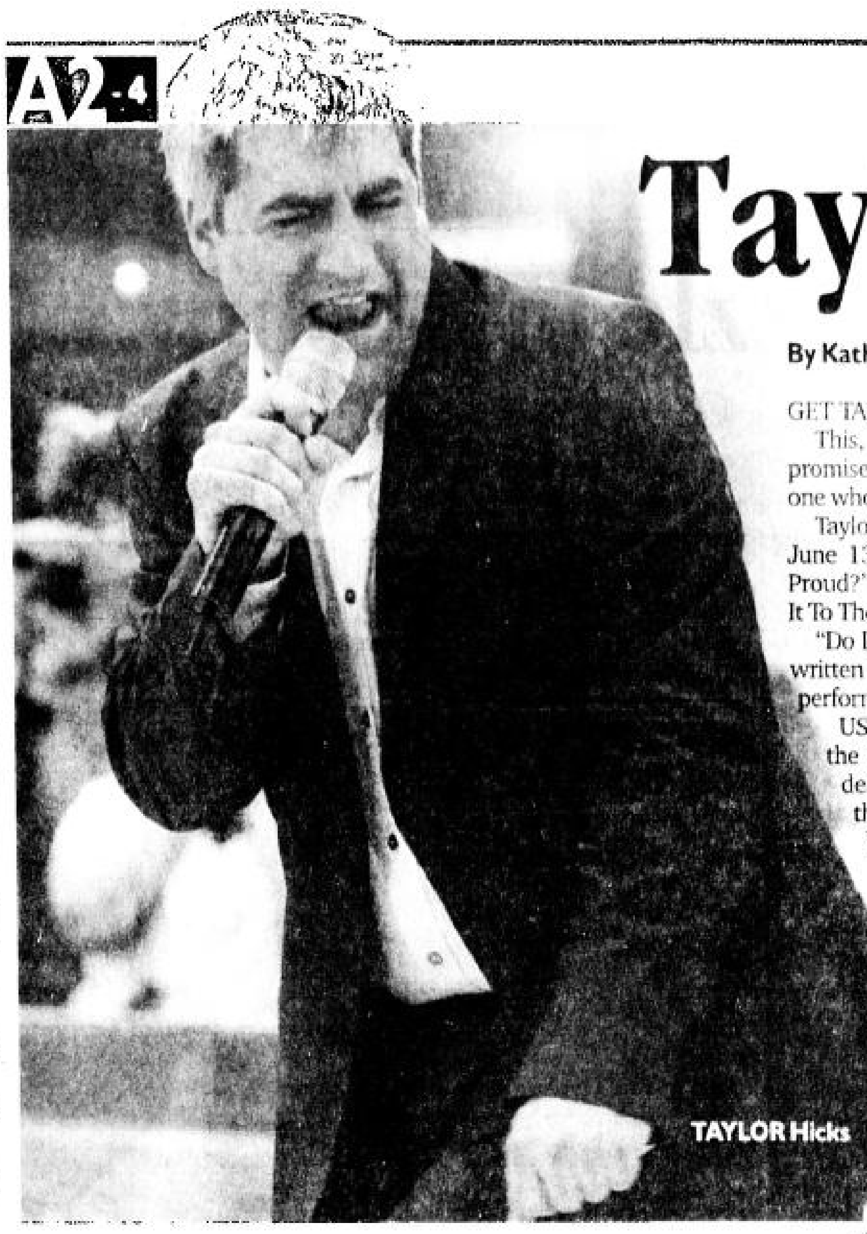
SM CITY CEBU
1. XMEN III
2. CARS
3. THE OMEN
4. FAILURE TO LAUNCH
5. AQUAMARINE
6. BANDIDAS
7. ALL ABOUT LOVE
8. M:I:III

SM CITY ILOILO
1. FAILURE TO LAUNCH
2. RESERVED
3. ALL ABOUT LOVE
4. M:I:III
5. MANAY PO
6. XMEN III
7. RESERVED
8. REINCARNATION

SM CITY DAVAO
1. XMEN III
2. SILENT HILL
3. ALL ABOUT LOVE
4. THE OMEN
5. MANAY PO
6. CARS

SM CITY CAGAYAN
1. SILENT HILL
2. ALL ABOUT LOVE
3. BENCHWARMERS
4. XMEN III

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING MTRCB RATING SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA



TAYLOR Hicks

ENTERTA

Taylor Hic

By Kathryn Fatima Reyes

GET TAYLOR-IZED!

This, "American Idol" Taylor Hicks promises, is what would happen to everyone who listens to his music.

Taylor's first single outing is due out on June 13. It consists of "Do I Make You Proud?" and the Doobie Brothers' "Taking It To The Streets."

"Do I Make You Proud?" was especially written for him; he sang it on the show's performance finale late last month.

US music mogul Clive Davis signed the fifth "American Idol" to a record deal shortly after. He is set to produce the Season 5 champ's full-length album later this year.

Taylor has two pre-"AI" indie albums—"In Your Time (1997) and "Under the Radar" (2005).

It is interesting to know that as an infant, the guy who made gray hair cool was blond. In puberty, he recalled, his hair turned black, and now it's all gray.

In an exclusive interview arranged by Star World, Taylor admitted that he found some of Simon Cowell's criticisms offensive—particularly when the snooty judge told him that he had performed like he was drunk.

"That kind of got under my skin a little bit," the 29-year-old said. "But I got to show him. I am the 'American Idol' so *ha-ha-ha-ha-ha-ha!*"

What's the story behind that jacket you wore during the finale?

I saw the jacket about eight weeks ago and I thought, "If I go to the finale, I'm going to buy it." So I did.

What we can expect from your album?

I can guarantee you this, it will be an album with my stamp of approval, guaranteed.

Do you relate to the lyrics of "Do I Make You Proud?"

Yes, I feel lucky to have been given that single. The lyrics mean a lot [to me].

You are performing with fellow "Idol" finalists on tour.

I'm looking forward to that. This is "Idol's" most talent-filled year. I love working with talented people—it makes you work

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THE FUNNIEST SCARY MOVIE OF THEM ALL!
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MIRAMAX

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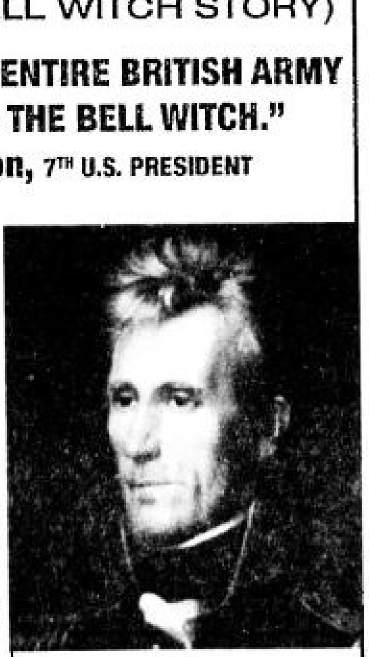
AN AMERICAN HAUNTING
(BASED ON THE BELL WITCH STORY)

"I'D RATHER FIGHT THE ENTIRE BRITISH ARMY THAN TO DEAL WITH THE BELL WITCH."
-- Andrew Jackson, 7TH U.S. PRESIDENT



ANDREW JACKSON had witnessed the terrifying event

For nearly two centuries, the BELL WITCH haunting has been considered the greatest supernatural phenomenon in American history. The people, places and dates were real. Never has the world witnessed a demonic entity so intelligent yet evil as what terrorized Bell's family and a rural community between 1817 and 1821. Unexplainable things occur on the old Bell farm even today - leading many to believe this sinister entity never left.

In 1819, Andrew Jackson *(who later became the 7th President of the United States)* got word of the demonic disturbances at the home of his friend, John Bell, and decided to pay him a personal visit. Jackson and his entourage, consisting of several men and a large wagon, journeyed from Nashville to the Bell home. As the entourage approached the Bell property, the wagon suddenly stopped. The horses tried pulling but to no avail--the wagon simply would not move.

After several minutes of cursing and trying to get the wagon to move, Jackson exclaimed that it must have been the "witch." As soon as Jackson uttered these words, an unidentified female voice spoke, telling Jackson and his men that they could proceed, and that "she would see them again later that evening."

Terrified, Jackson's men begged to leave the Bell farm but Jackson insisted on staying so that he could find out more about the demon. The following day, Jackson, a hero in the Battle of New Orleans four years earlier, was quoted as later having said, "I'd rather fight the entire British Army than to deal with the Bell Witch." It happened in 1819 and it is happening again today.

In the tradition of THE EXORCIST, AMITYVILLE HORROR, and THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE comes the AN AMERICAN HAUNTING, another tale of demonic evil based on the BELL WITCH story.

ADVT

Beyond 'b

VIEW

Nesto
U. Tor

NOW THAT THE PRELIMINARY PHASES of "Philippine Idol" are upon us, we wonder how this homegrown edition of the hit "American Idol" singing search will pan out.

Will it end up having its own dynamics and scope? Another P64,000 question: How different will it be from the plethora of singing tilts that we already have?

We believe that, while the "American Idol" template will be followed, the local edition's success will depend on the astuteness of the people who will choose the new competition's semi-finalists.

How good will they be at spotting the genuine, original talent in a sea of screaming and *birit*-ing wannabes? Can they rise above the usual *padrino* and *pakiusap* system that all too often compromises local singing searches? We trust that ABC-5 has chosen its "Philippine Idol" people well.

On point of talent, there's no problem discovering 24 and then 12 real singing finds here.

Some years ago, we were involved in the "Miss Saigon" search, and we were bowled over by the awesome singers who auditioned (many of whom never got to perform in the hit musical abroad, by the way).

So, we do have the stellar-level singers. The question is, can they survive to the point where they can share their talent on TV with the viewing nation, for people to vote them to victory—and the singing stardom they deserve?

In this regard, we're heartened by some of the comments that the three official "Philippine Idol" jurors have made:

Ryan Cayabyab pointed out that we have many good singers. What he will be looking out for, he shares, is that "extra something" that makes a talent a star.

Francis Magalona says he will be on the lookout for originality. So, *gaya-gaya, plakado* talents, either change your approach, or throw in the towel.

And **Pilita Corrales** made us happy when she recently criticized singers here for their "*birit*" mentality, hitting all those high notes relentlessly, to impress and excite the listening public.

This *birit* syndrome is a major problem on the local music scene, so Pilita should be complimented for inveighing against it.

Some days ago, we caught a "singing champions" medley on TV, and all of the award-winning young singers "made *birit*," assaulting viewers' eardrums and leaving musical taste and sensibility in shattered bits and pieces.

We trust that prospective "Philippine Idol" contestants will take the jurors' comments to heart, and focus on showcasing not just the strength and range of their voices,

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INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

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re any songs you wanted to
vere not allowed to?
n' Morrison stuff; Van Morrison
egar. I think I got "Night Moves"
ut I decided not to do it. Also
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nored that you wanted to sing
on My Mind" because of Ray

id [but] after a certain point,
g the theme weeks given by the
the song didn't fit.
[to clear] "Try a Little Tender-
ng the love song week and that
ither. I might sing "Georgia" on

glad the whole competition
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arder, the preparation or this
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s all dies down, what are you
king forward to doing?
ng.

e competition, when did you
ou could win?
say that about three weeks ago
really feeling comfortable with
nce and the songs. Then I knew
was a good chance I would win

es it take to please Simon,
Randy?
lly have to sell the song and re-
to the lyrics, and the song that
e you really have to stick with
have to rehearse well.

ss your mind that Katharine
instead of you?

e been any post-"American
lights for you?
night Show (with Jay Leno)."

s so great about that?
musician and struggling per-
used to watch "The Tonight
d all the entertainers that come
ne to actually be interviewed on

TAYLOR/ A2-7

rit'

FEINDER

t also song interpretation, gen-
on, musicality, tempo, contrast,
her words, all of the equally im-
ctors that many of our singing
"champions" ignore, in favor of
ting listeners over the head with
cal sledgehammers.
blame for the prevalence here of
plague" is the local listening pub-
is generally too impressionable,
d easy to dazzle with cheap and
musical pyrotechnics.
its enlightened jurors showing
e first "Philippine Idol" tilt can
jor contribution to the improve-
al musical tastes by not show-
performers.
d example the show sets could
ers here realize that there's much
ood singing than volume and
—An artistic consummation
ntation devoutly to be wished!

st 'Stand'

The Last Stand" broke local box-
rds when it grossed P58,828,446
Manila and P77,354,250 nation-
s first five days. The blockbuster
hefty 65-percent share of the
rket.
three theaters showing the film
North Edsa (P3,893,362), SM
(P3,659,378) and Glorietta 4
6).

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX

6th floor Shangri-la Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City Telephone: 633.2227 / 6337851 loc. 171

1 (DOLBY) FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL 2006
2 (DOLBY) CARS GP
3 (DOLBY) OMEN 666 R13
4 (DOLBY) TH E INSIDE MAN PG13

PREMIERE

(DOLBY) TAKE THE LEAD PG13
XMEN 3 PG13

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA

(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS) TAKE THE LEAD
2 (SDDS) THE DA VINCI CODE
3 (DTS) THE BENCHWARMERS
4 GOLD (DTS) X - MEN - 3
5 GOLD (DOLBY) CARS
6 GOLD (SDDS) THE INSIDE MAN
7 GOLD (DOLBY) THE OMEN 666
8 (PREMIERE) CHAOS
9 (PREMIERE) ALL ABOUT LOVE
10 (PREMIERE) MANAY PO

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY) THE OMEN 666
2 (DOLBY) CARS
3 (DOLBY) THE INSIDE MAN
4 (DOLBY) TAKE THE LEAD

CINEMA 2000

Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7303

1 MANAY PO
2 (DTS) ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 (DOLBY) X - MEN - 3
4 CARS

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146

1 MANAY PO
2 (DOLBY) CARS
3 (DTS) X - MEN - 3
4 ALL ABOUT LOVE

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 ALL ABOUT LOVE
2 MANAY PO
3 (DOLBY) THE POSEIDON

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 MANAY PO
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 (DOLBY) SILENT HILL
4 (DTS) X - MEN - 3

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1 X - MEN - 3
2 MANAY PO
3 (DOLBY) ALL ABOUT LOVE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736

1 X - MEN - 3
2 MANAY PO

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1 CARS
2 THE OMEN 666
3 ALL ABOUT LOVE
4 THE INSIDE MAN

Blue Wave

Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 (DOLBY) X - MEN - 3
2 (DOLBY) MANAY PO
3 (DOLBY) CARS
4 (DOLBY) THE OMEN 666

SUPER CINERAMA

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228

1 (DOLBY) THE OMEN 666
2 TAKE THE LEAD
3 ALL ABOUT LOVE
4 X - MEN - 3
5 THE INSIDE MAN

Lianas Cinema

(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1 X - MEN - 3
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) POSEIDON
2 SENSES
3 BANDEDAS
4 (DTS) DALAGITA

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) OBSESSION
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 (DTS) X - MEN - 3
4 MANAY PO
5 CARS

starmall

EDSA-SHAW

(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266160

3 ALL ABOUT LOVE
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) THE DA VINCI CODE
5 MANAY PO

MARKETPLACE

Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE-3
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 X - MEN - 3
4 RESERVED

metropolis star cinema

www.clickthecity.com.ph

(ALABANG) tel. 8604285, 6433994

1 MANAY PO
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 THE OMEN 666
4 CARS

Masagana CINEMA

(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 ALL ABOUT LOVE
2 CHAOS
3 MANAY PO

Center Mall Cinema

Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue
(Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)

1 THE OMEN 666
2 THE DA VINCI CODE

THEATRES

NE Pacific Mall Corporation, Telephone No (044) 600-3025

1 X - MEN - 3
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 MANAY PO

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX) CARS
2 MANAY PO
3 (DTS EX) THE OMEN 666
4 ALL ABOUT LOVE

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 MANAY PO
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 SILENT HILL
4 X - MEN - 3

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC

Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271

X - MEN - 3
ALL ABOUT LOVE
RESERVED
RESERVED

Centre Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 MANAY PO
2 THE DA VINCI CODE

Berma Cinema

(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 X - MEN - 3
2 KAULAYAW

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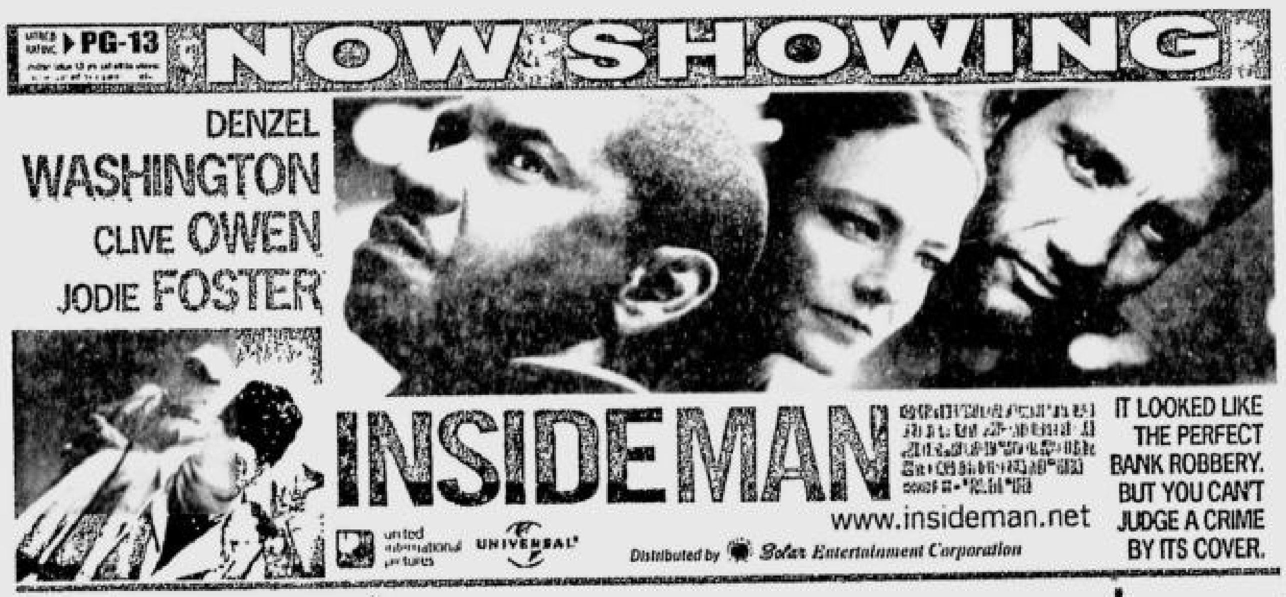
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GALLERIA 632 9116

1 THE DA VINCI CODE • THX
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00

2 CARS
11:40 2:15 4:50 7:25 10:00

3 THE INSIDE MAN
11:20 2.00 4:40 7:20 10:00

4 TAKE THE LEAD
11:40 2:15 4:50 7:25 10:00

5 THE OMEN
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

6 CHAOS
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

7 X-MEN 3
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

8 ALL ABOUT LOVE
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

9 MANAY PO
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

10 THE BENCHWARMERS
1:00 3:10 5:20 7:30 9:40

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 THE OMEN
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2 MANAY PO
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3 THE INSIDE MAN
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4 ALL ABOUT LOVE
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5 TAKE THE LEAD
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6 CARS

7 X-MEN 3
11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 CHAOS
1:15 3:50 6:25 9:00

2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
11:30 1:55 4:25 6:55 9:15

3 FAILURE TO LAUNCH
1:00 3:00 5.00 7:00 9:00

4 THE DA VINCI CODE
12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00

5 THE OMEN
11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05

6 CARS

7 X-MEN 3
11:40 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:10

8 MANAY PO
11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

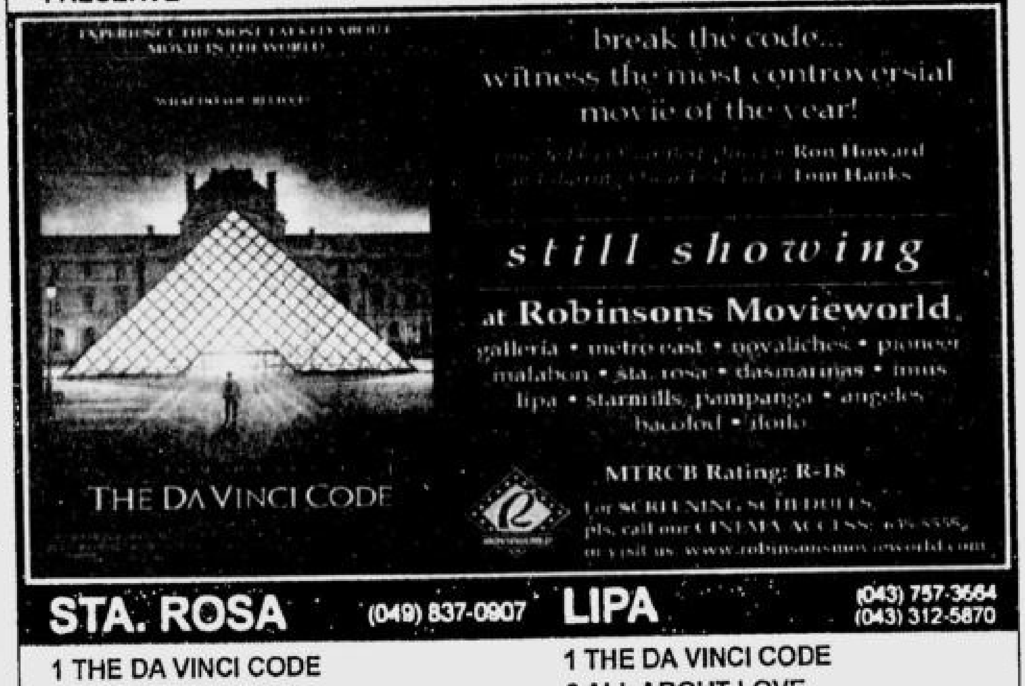
1 THE DA VINCI CODE
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 X-MEN 3
4 CARS
5 MANAY PO
6 THE OMEN

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 ALL ABOUT LOVE
2 X-MEN 3
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378

1 THE INSIDE MAN
2 CARS
3 TAKE THE LEAD
4 THE OMEN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Tom Hanks
still showing
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malabon • sta. rosa • dasmariñas • imus
lipa • starmills, pampanga • angeles
bacolod • iloilo
MTRCB Rating: R-18

STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907

1 THE DA VINCI CODE
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 AQUAMARINE
4 MANAY PO
5 CARS

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 THE DA VINCI CODE
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 SILENT HILL
4 MANAY PO
5 X-MEN 3

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 MANAY PO
2 THE DA VINCI CODE
3 CARS
4 ALL ABOUT LOVE
5 AQUAMARINE

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 THE OMEN
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 MANAY PO
4 CARS

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8183

1 THE OMEN
2 CARS
3 MANAY PO
4 ALL ABOUT LOVE
5 X-MEN 3
6 THE DA VINCI CODE

STARMILLS (045) 875 1927 (045) 961-5270

1 CARS
2 THE DA VINCI CODE
3 ALL ABOUT LOVE
4 MANAY PO
5 X-MEN 3
6 THE OMEN

BACOLOD (034) 441-6463 (034) 441-0459

1 AQUAMARINE
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 BANDIDAS
4 THE DA VINCI CODE
5 X-MEN 3
6 OVER THE HEDGE

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 X-MEN 3
2 ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 MANAY PO
4 THE DA VINCI CODE
5 FAILURE TO LAUNCH
6 REINCARNATION

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NEW Minstrels

New Minstrels reunion concert

THE NEW MINSTRELS COME TOGETHER for a special presentation, "The Ultimate Reunion Concert (The New Minstrels' Five Generations) on June 16, 8 p.m., at the Aliw Theater.
Call 911-5555

SHOW TIME

Same Same

Clint and Bob of Same Same created their huge following as members of The Moffatts.
They are in town until June 12 to promote their debut album, "The Meaning of Happy."
They're set to at SM Mall of Asia today and SM North Edsa on Sunday. Mall shows start at 4 p.m. They will also perform tomorrow, 7 p.m., at Fuente Circle, Eastwood City, Libis

Flamenco evening

The Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) Bahaginan invites all music lovers to an evening of Flamenco dancing by the internationally acclaimed dancer-choreographer Clara Ramona and her sons Isaac and Nino delos Reyes, 8:30 tonight at the Aguinaldo Theater Library (AFP Theater) in Quezon City. Music by Yerbaguena. Call 374-6450 or 52, ext. 15

SUGARFREE

June 10

MYMP with Nyoy Volante in "Fall In Love" at SM Megamall Cinema 9. Call 891-9999.
Melanie Marquez in Beauty Reborn: A Celebration of Fashion, Style and Wellness at J. Nakpil corner Orosa Street, Malate
Brown Republic at Tavern on the Square
Aretha and the Souled Out Band at Merk's Bar
Winston's Wings Tour continues with Sugarfree at Padi's Point Las Piñas
Sam Milby at De Paul College Football Field in Jaro, Iloilo
Gary V "Relevance" album tour at SM Sta. Rosa; 5 p.m.
The Retro Show at RJTV Bar

KAMIKAZEE

June 11

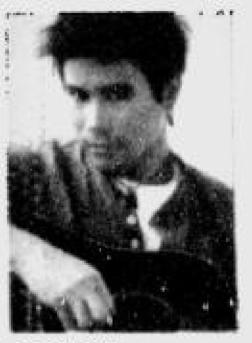
MTV Youth Fair at the Rockwell Tent in Makati with KC Montero, Cindy Kurleto and Marc Abaya
Same Same at SM North Edsa
Lynn Sherman at RJTV Bar

June 12

Strings of Soul and Dindo at Tavern on the Square
Silk and Steel at Merk's Bar Bistro, Greenbelt 3
Raging Wet at Brox Dance Bar

June 13

Kamikazee at Siliman University, Dumaguete City. The band sings "First Day High." Rexona models Patty Laurel, Rich Alvarez, Charles Lejano, Kat Alano and Boy 2 Quizon star in the song's music video.
Jojo A All the Way and Gimme A Break at RJTV Bar
Julianne and Sitti at Tavern on the Square
Aretha and the Souled Out Band at Merk's Bar



SAM Milby

June 14

Jojo A All the Way and Gimme A Break at RJTV Bar
RJ at Discovery Suites' Serendipity Lounge
Sandilea and MYMP at Tavern on the Square
Wednesday Jazz Festival at Merk's Bar with Richard Merk, Eddie Katindig and Judith Banal

June 15

The Greatest and Latest Hits Concert featuring RJ with Megan Aguilar and Girl Valencia at the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Hotel; 8 p.m.
Jojo A All the Way and Gimme A Break at RJTV Bar
Day One at Tavern on the Square
Acoustic Jive at Merk's Bar

June 16

RJ 'n Friends and Moonstrucks at RJTV Bar
Cascades 2006 World Tour at the Araneta Coliseum
Solace at SM Molino

The story of a Bad Banana

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

"DIREK" BOBOT at ABS-CBN lobby, left. He tells his children, "Don't be afraid of failure or defeat

PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA • ADDITIONAL PHOTOS COURTESY OF EDGAR MORTIZ."

EDGAR MORTIZ RECALLED how, as a 13-year-old, he took the Matorco double-deck bus along Dewey (now Roxas) Boulevard:

"My mom and I would wait for it in Rizal Park. The fare was only 25 centavos from the park to the ABS-CBN studio, near San Juan de Dios Hospital."

Mortiz was the champion for 13 weeks on the network's talent search, "Tawag ng Tanghalan," hosted by Pugo and Patsy.

He recounted: "A year before I joined, Nora Aunor had topped the contest. We had the same vocal coach: Romy Hernandez. That's why we sang the same type of songs.'"

Even before he could compete in the finals, the neophyte was signed up as a regular on the network's "Oras ng Ligaya," headlined by Sylvia La Torre and Oscar Obligacion.

"Oras," Edgar said, was mounted in the new ABS-CBN studios in Quezon City. "My partner on the show was Nora."

When Tirso Cruz III entered the picture, they became a triangle. "But they fell in love and I was eased out."

One day, Mortiz bumped into a childhood acquaintance, Vilma Santos, in the studio. "I was only 9 when we met on Tino Lapus' 'Eskuwelahang Munti.'"

Next time they met, Mortiz was a certified teen star. I told [fan-turned-talent manager] Angge that I'd like to have Vi as my *ka*-loveteam."

Thus, the Vi-Bobot teamup was born.

In August 1970, the network launched a teen variety show, "D' Sensations"—starring Mortiz, Santos, Romy Mallari, Perla Adea, Esperanza Fabon, Ike Lozada and company.

He reminisced: "It was the 'ASAP' of its time. Aired at 5 p.m., it went head to head against 'Superstar,' hosted by Nora and Eddie Peregrina."

Master, mentor

He gave credit to late actor-director Tony Santos Sr. for the success of "D' Sensations": "He masterminded the fame of Nora and the other teen stars. Once, in the director's booth, I heard him instruct the cameraman: 'Zoom in on the fans. They will hit each other with chairs.'" True enough, a fight broke out between Vi-Bot and Guy-Pip (Nora-Tirso) fans.

"The cameraman asked how he knew. *Direk* shrugged and said, 'I told them to.'"

Mortiz looked up to Tony Santos Sr. as mentor and master of mass entertainment. "Five of the Top 10 shows were under him, including 'Tang-Tarang-Tang' and 'Oras ng Ligaya.' [And] since he was also an actor, he had his finger on the public pulse."

Working with Santos was a breeze, Mortiz remembered. "Like playtime. We'd spend more time chatting than working. He would give us instructions only 15 minutes before the show."

He regarded *Direk* as a "pillar of the industry." Quite literally, he noted, since Santos' name is etched, among other network pioneers, in the columns of the new ABS-CBN building.

After two years on top, "D' Sensations" folded up when the network was padlocked during martial law. "We had no choice but to transfer to KBS 9," Mortiz said.

With Vilma, he starred in a string of shows—"Vi & Bot," "Edgar Loves Vilma" and "Santos-Mortiz & Associates." They parted ways in 1974.

Mortiz had a solo show "People," which aired on Channel 13 from 1975 to 1978. There he met his wife Millet Santos. (Her sister Charo (now ABS-CBN channel head) had her practicum in Santos' charity show.)

Mortiz jested: "What can I do? Santos women love me!"

YESTERDAY

On April 3, 1977, they tied the knot. He was 24, she was 17. In quick succession, they had four kids— Frasco (now, 27), Badjie (26), Calin (24), and Camille (23).

"When she turned 21, my in-laws had my wife ligated!"

A cool dad, he described himself.

Still, he admitted he didn't fully understand the young. "I went to Embassy bar recently and the techno music gave me a headache."

One youthful fad he did take up was a Korean sitcom titled "Nonstop." He reported: "Frasco and Badjie would stay up until 3 a.m. to catch the show on Arirang (Korean channel on cable). I watched it once and was hooked."

"Nonstop" served as inspiration for the new Saturday teen sitcom "Let's Go," which he is directing. Over 150 teeners auditioned for the 12 roles on the ABS-CBN show. All of them underwent training under the Actors' Workshop Foundation. Mortiz used the same process for the kids on "Going Bulilit"—a *Kapamilya* gag show he had conceptualized. "Our goal is to make even drama actors do comedy naturally," he said.

A concrete example was Bad Bananas, he noted. Not one of the other Bananas—Christopher de Leon, Johnny Delgado and the late Jay Ilagan—was known for comedy when he formed the group with them in the mid-1970s.

But their first TV venture, "Tambakan Alley," floundered. "The public didn't get our jokes." By 1986, he said, the public had caught up with them and their gag show, "Going Bananas," became a consistent top rater.

His explanation: "The show came at the right time, post-Edsa. The Censors had just been abolished, and we were free to do all sorts of stuff."

After "Going Bananas" was axed in 1992, Mortiz was jobless for two years until the ABC 5's "Tropang Trumpo" landed in his lap. It was about to be canceled when he and Al Tantay took over. Instead of tanking, the gag show ran for two more years, until its stars Michael V. and Ogie Alcasid were pirated by GMA 7 for "Bubble Gang."

Mortiz joined ABS-CBN, where sister-in-law Charo is now a top executive.

Frasco and Badjie are also on "Let's Go"—the former as writer and the latter as actor (the resident bully).

He shared the most important piece of advice he had passed on to his children: "I told them not to be afraid of failure, that only after experiencing defeat can they value success."

EDGAR Mortiz with his family on vacation in the US

BAD Bananas Christopher de Leon, Johnny Delgado, Edgar Mortiz and Jay Ilagan

VI and Bot

To reach the 'reachable' star

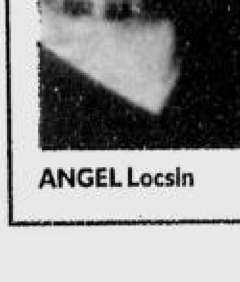
RUSHES

ANGEL LOCSIN IS THE NEW FACE OF Avon Color. The last time they launched a campaign as big as this one, local execs of the makeup company pointed out, was four years ago, with Lea Salonga.

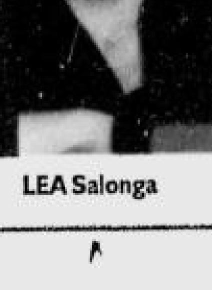
We took one of them aside and asked, "So why Darna after Miss Saigon?"

Her reply: "During Lea's turn, we needed someone whose image would generate an 'aspirational' effect. Now we need someone people can reach, someone they feel they can touch."

Hmmm.



ANGEL Locsin



LEA Salonga

Singapore sling

Christian Bautista is launching his album, "The Way You Look At Me," to Singapore. It's been to Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand, with impressive results. Did you know that the very popular title track was written by American composers Andrew Fromm and Keith Follese?

So beautiful

Speaking of songwriters ... Billy Preston the exuberant keyboardist who landed gigs with the Beatles and the Rolling Stones—and who died yesterday at 59—wrote Joe Cocker's enduring hit, "You Are So Beautiful."

Keanu lonely

Speaking of beautiful ... Keanu Reeves says he is lonely and wants to get married and have children, in an upcoming issue of Parade magazine. The Associated Press reports. The 41-year-old actor says he continues to mourn the loss of his stillborn daughter in 1999 and the death of the baby's mother, Jennifer Syme, in a car crash in 2001.

CHRSTIAN Bautista

Careful, Jake

Speaking of cautious ...
In Los Angeles, "Brokeback Mountain won the second highest number of MTV Movie Awards (topnotcher was "Wedding Crashers) on Saturday—including Best Kiss for actors Jake Gyllenhaal and Heath Ledger and Best Performance for Gyllenhaal. The twin wins were rare for a critically acclaimed movie at the offbeat awards show. Gyllenhaal kept the mood light when accepting the award for Best Kiss by keeping a wide distance between himself and presenter Justin Timberlake. *Reuters*

'Lust, Caution'

Speaking of "Brokeback ..."
The latest from Oscar-winning Taiwanese director Ang Lee, according to AP: a spy thriller titled "Lust, Caution." Lee was in Taipei early this week casting for the project. He has reportedly met with Zhang Ziyi and Zhou Xun.

KEANU Reeves

Thanks, perverts

Also at the MTV Awards, actress Jessica Alba, while picking up the Sexiest Performance award for "Sin City," thanked "all the perverts who voted for me." *Reuters*

Killer timing

Matthew McConaughey, on working with Sarah Jessica Parker: "She has killer timing. I keep saying she's peculiar. She's manicured and mischievous, sophisticated . . but she can blush."

'Anino's'…

From page A2-1

manuel C. Taylo, "Labada" by Raz dela Torre, "No Passport Needed" by Jeannie Lim;

"Orasyon" by Rommel Tolentino, "Parang Pelikula" by Hubert Tibi, "Putot" by Jeck Cogama, "Puwang" by Anna Isabelle Matutina, and "Sa Silaw" by Reinzi L. Balao.

The Cinemalaya 2006 awards show will be held on July 23 at the CCP Main Theater in Pasay City. The festival begins on July 17. The week-long event will also feature film exhibitions, a film expo and market, seminars, conferences, an indie films congress and other related events.

Taylor …

From page A2-4

"The Tonight Show" was a moment that I'll never forget in my career.

When do you get to go home next?

I really don't know. I'm trying to just take it one day at a time and make sure that everything is going right.

What does the future hold for your old band, Little Memphis Blues Orchestra?

Those guys are such great musicians, we were all competent as the Taylor Hicks Band and they are just so awesome now as the Little Memphis Blues Orchestra. I hope to see those guys soon.

Do you have a girlfriend?

None right now.

What do you look for in a special someone?

Cooking.

Why is that important to you?

Just because, it just is. She also has to have a great sense of humor.

But what's the best thing about being single?

Freedom… freedom to do as you please. (But) I'm looking to settle down one of these days.

When your name was called as the winner, what went through your mind at that moment?

I was thinking: "Don't fall down. Don't forget to thank all the people who voted for you."

You're stepping into this business as a superstar. It doesn't get much more mainstream than "American Idol." How do you find the mainstream music scene right now?

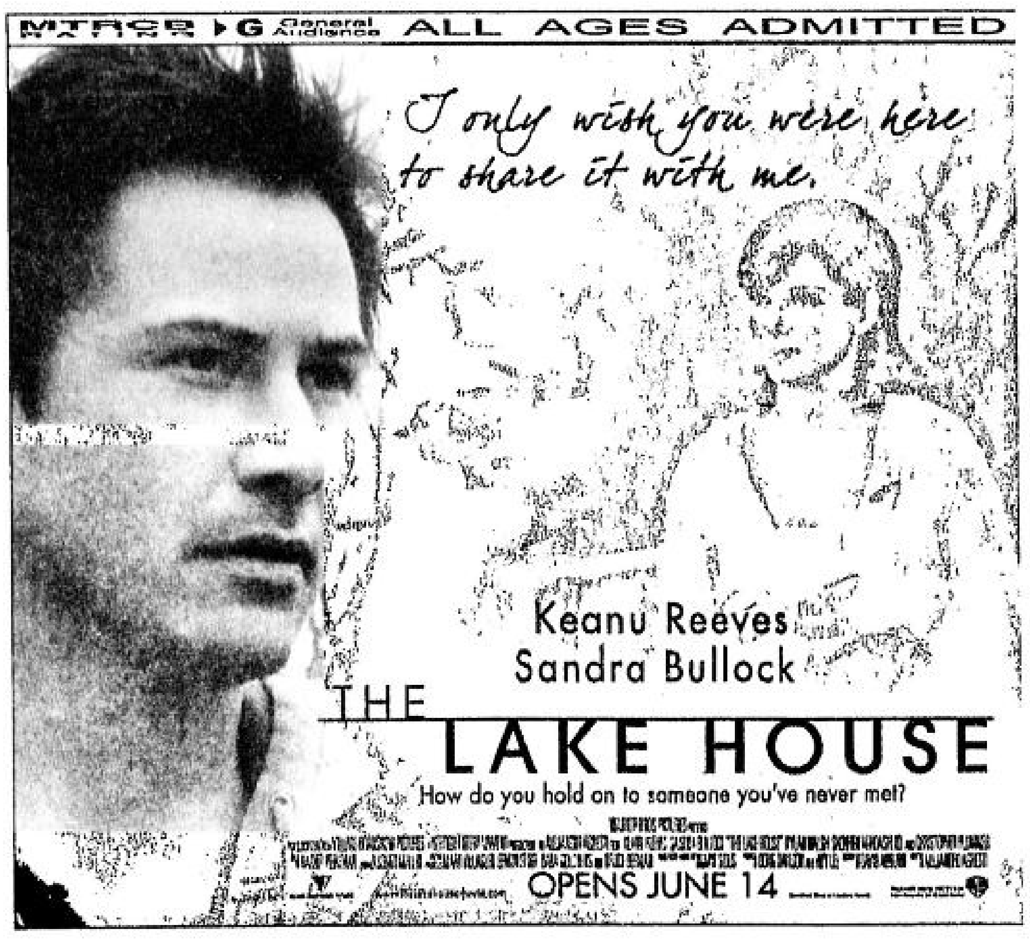
I think it's getting pretty good. John Legend and people like that, it has such a soulful feel. I like hip-hop and rap, and there's all kinds of feelings that's associated with that. Music is not in a bad place right now, in my opinion.

Would you ever have a rapper spit a few lines on one of your records?

Sure.

Were you ever self-conscious about your prematurely graying hair when you were younger, like in college?

I really didn't know what to think about it. It kind of just slowly grew on me, literally.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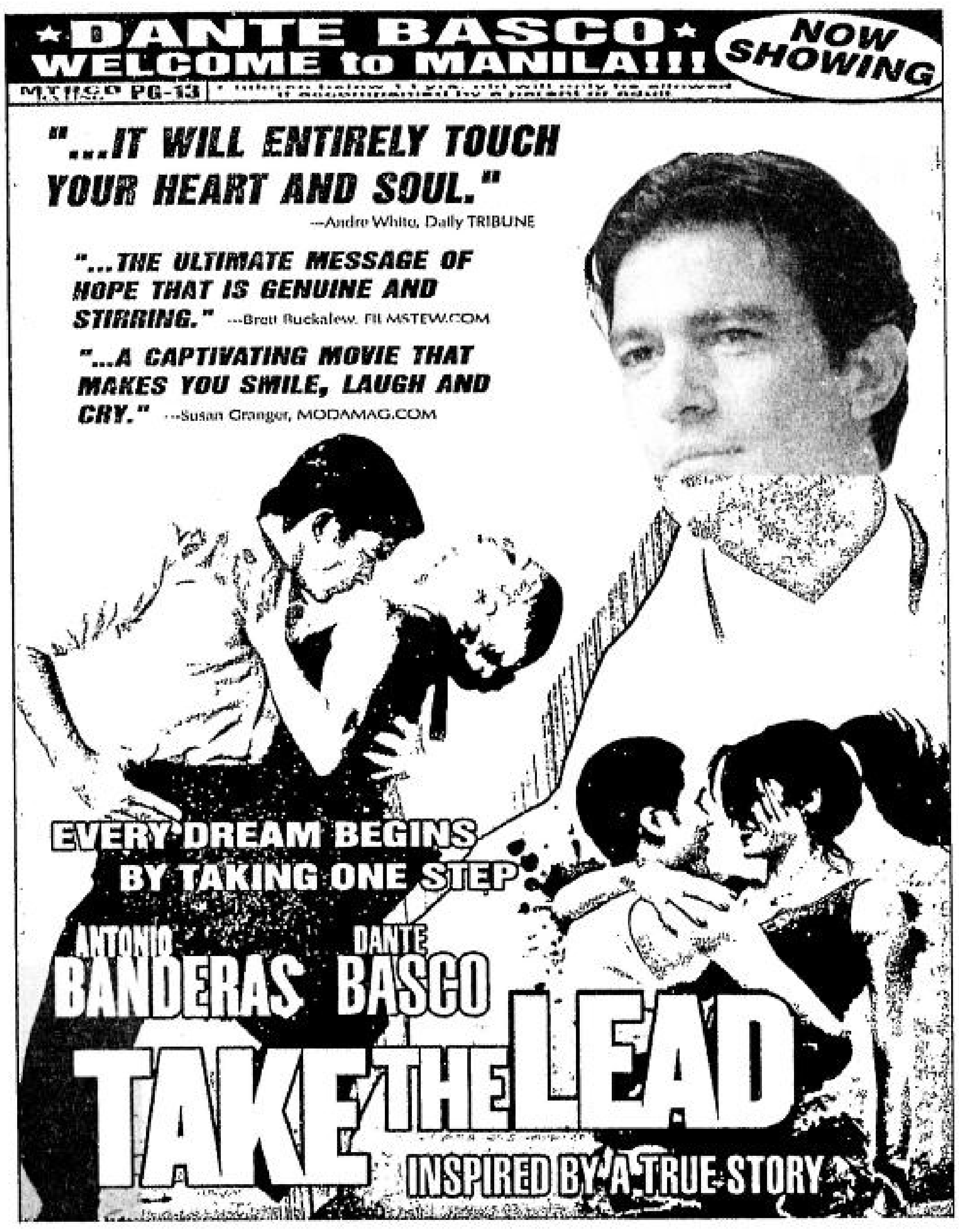
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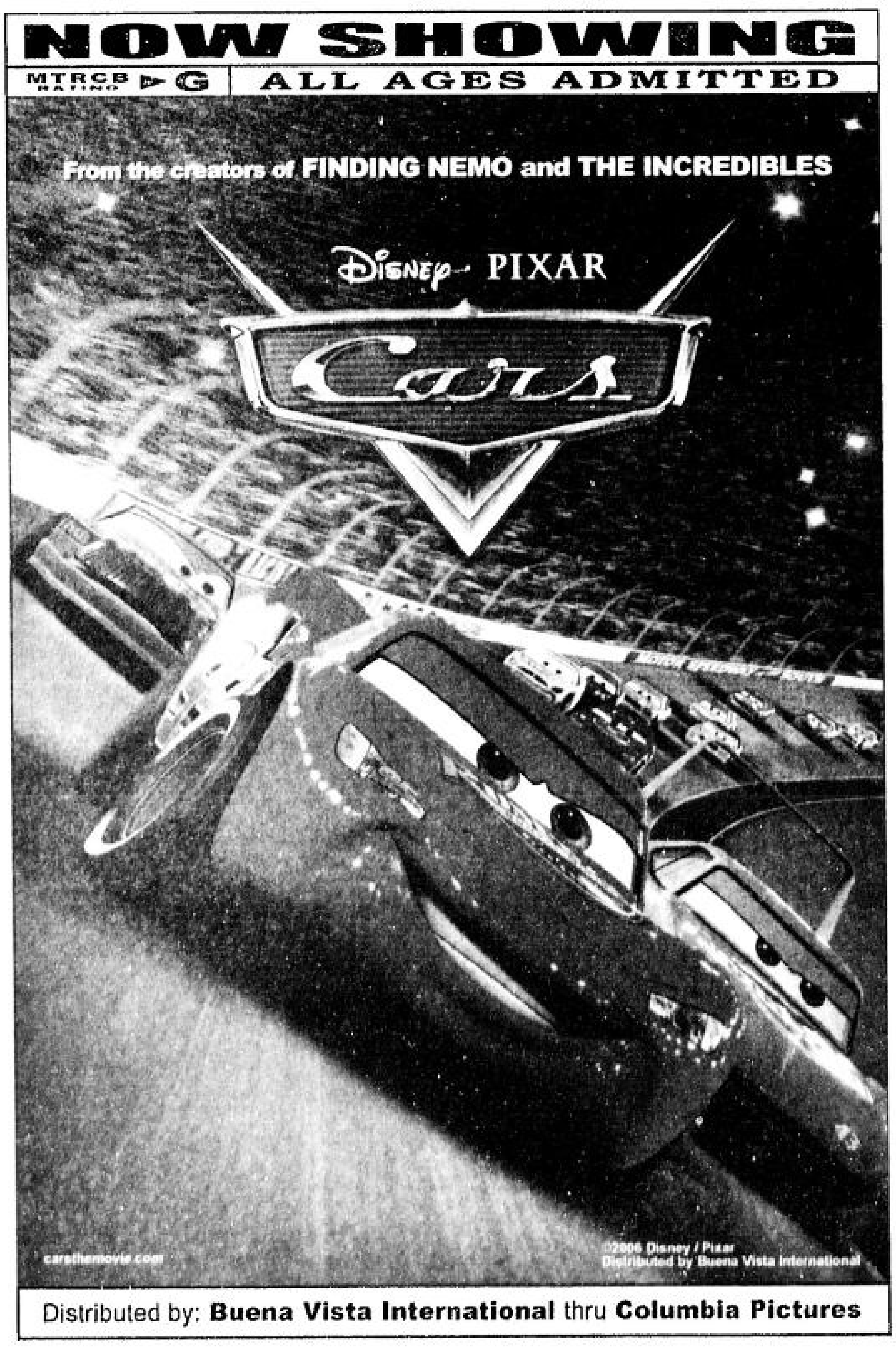
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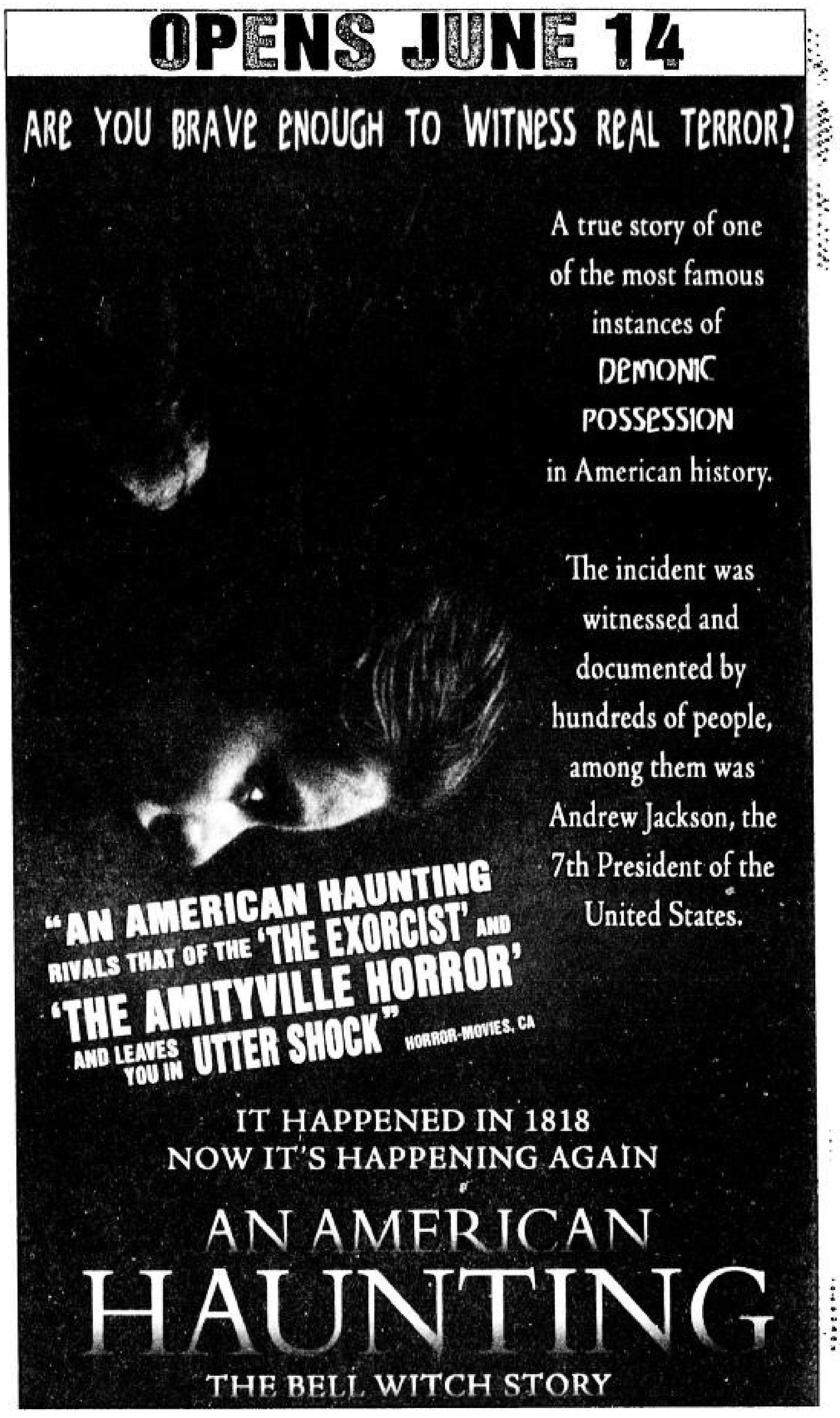
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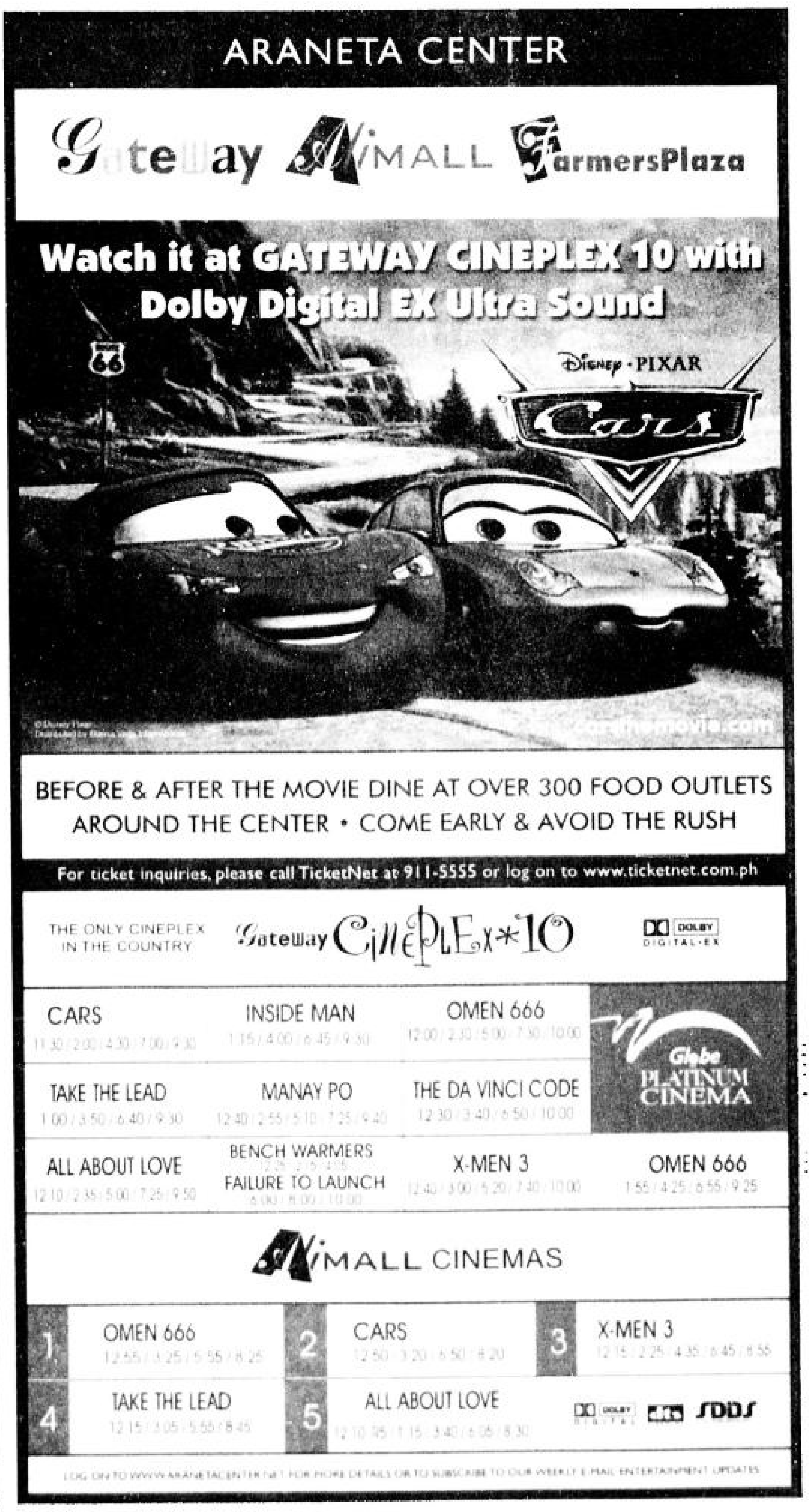
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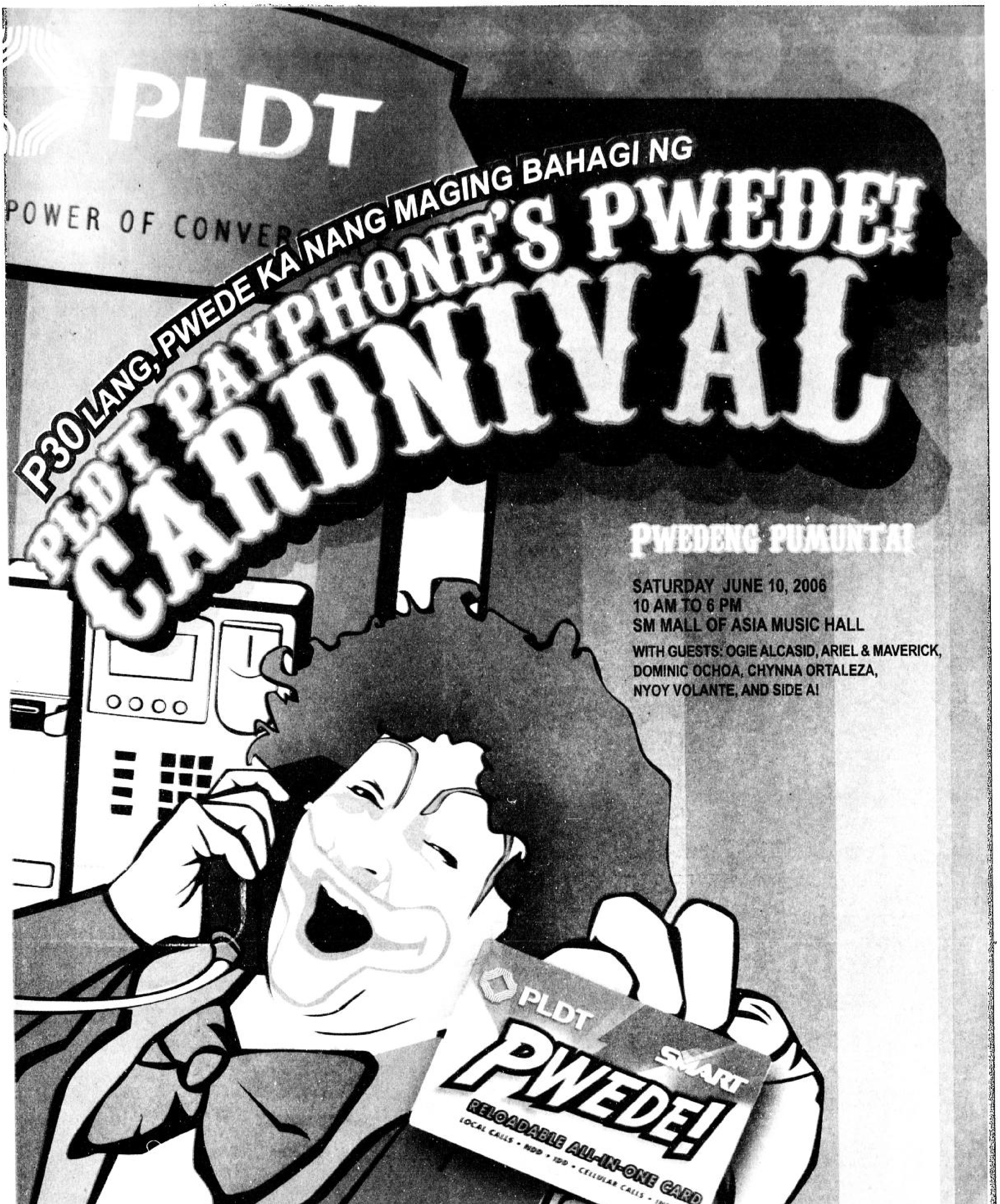
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WHAT'S INSIDE

Aguinaldo + Crame solution /B3

Prospects of peace attract more investors to ARMM /B4

Megaworld clinches ₱7.2-B Chinatown deal

Project said to be biggest real estate dev't in Manila

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

PROPERTY DEVELOPER Megaworld Corp. has entered into a joint venture with the city government of Manila to develop a P7.2-billion mixed-use complex in Binondo, Manila.

The project involves two parcels of land in Chinatown, measuring 4.6 hectares, which will be redeveloped into an educational complex and a residential condominium community, Megaworld said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE).

The project is expected to be completed in five years.

"Megaworld is proud to undertake this urban renewal project in the heart of Binondo," Megaworld chair and president Andrew Tan said. "It is the largest real estate development in Manila in the last 25 years."

On the first plot of land, Megaworld plans to put up six school buildings, which will be complemented by a housing project with a total of 414 residential units for school teachers and other non-teaching personnel.

Retail space will also be set aside at the school complex for providers of food and school supplies, in addition to the sports facilities, parks and playgrounds that will be put up.

The second parcel of land will give rise to a residential condominium community to be dubbed "Cityplace."

The community will contain 1,700 residential condominium units, a shopping center, with space for a business process outsourcing office, and a boutique hotel for business travelers.

The hotel, along with a centerpiece promenade that will be open to the public, is meant to put Chinatown on the map of important tourist destinations in the country.

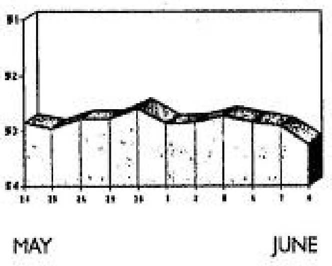
Through Cityplace, the developers hope to preserve and enhance Binondo's rich history and multicultural heritage.

Megaworld also plans to build parking lots, by-pass roads and pedestrian passes to make Cityplace environment- and pedestrian-friendly.

According to sources, part of the funding for the project will come from the pre-sale of residential units.

Also, Megaworld is currently studying the debt market abroad, hoping to raise $100 million from a bond offer.

INDICATORS



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

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As of 5 p.m., June 8, 2006

¥ 113.96 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., June 8, 2006

GOLD:
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per ounce
Hong Kong,
June 8, 2006

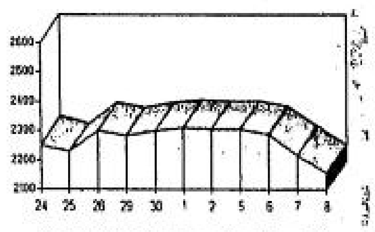
STOCK MARKET

Shares close 2.7% lower

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY CLOSED 2.74 percent lower, extending a three-day slide as the regional markets tumbled on concerns that higher US interest rates will dampen growth, dealers said.

They said the market could not

SHARES/ B3



(See stock market report on Page B7)

Peso breaches 53:$1 on threat of Fed hike

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PESO YESTERDAY BREACHED the 53-to-a-dollar mark and closed at its intra-day low of 53.25 against the greenback, as the local currency took a beating from the increase in demand for dollars and prospects of a higher US interest rate.

The peso's closing rate yesterday—the first time it reached the 53:$1 level this year—was 33 centavos weaker than the previous day's close of 52.92.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the weakening of the peso had more to do with regional trend rather than problems in the domestic economy.

He said the decline in the local currency was not peculiar to the peso, as currencies of other emerging markets were also adversely affected by the strengthening dollar.

The peso opened at 52.95, already weaker than the previous day's close, and averaged at 53.034. Volume of trade reached $526.5 million.

Analysts said the drop of the peso was anchored on talks about the possibility of another increase in the US interest rate. US Federal Reserve chair Ben Bernanke was earlier quoted as saying that the US central bank would remain vigilant against inflationary pressures.

The US Fed rate now stands at 5 percent following successive hikes since June 2004, when the US monetary authority was still headed by Alan Greenspan, who took a firm stand against inflation.

An increase in Fed rate makes US bonds and securities more attractive. The increase may trigger capital flight from emerging economies like the Philippines. With a narrowing gap between US interest rate and that of emerging economies, risk-averse individuals would normally prefer shifting their investments to the United States.

The BSP, meanwhile, has retained its interest rate at 7.5 percent despite an increasing US interest rate. Tetangco had said the BSP did not see any reason to hike its interest rate, adding that the interest rate differential between the US and the Philippines could still be

PESO/ B3

Planned LRT link to airport gets support of airlines

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (LRTA) plans to extend its Line 1—the oldest of the metropolis' "modern" rail systems—from either its Baclaran terminus or its depot in Pasay City to the Manila Domestic Terminal.

The plan immediately drew the support of airlines based at the terminal, saying it will make the area more accessible to commuters.

In an interview, LRTA general manager Mel Robles said the plan is feasible because of the proximity of the rail line's depot to the old domestic terminal.

"The domestic airport is only 250 meters from gate 3 of our depot," Robles said.

Preliminary discussions have already been held with the management of the Manila International Airport Authority, which oversees operations of the domestic terminal.

"We're in the initial stage of the project," Robles said.

Yesterday, budget airline Cebu Pacific, which is based at the domestic terminal, pledged its support to the project.

"[We] fully support the initiative of the Manila International Airport Authority, in partnership with the Light Rail Transit Authority, for the construction of a rail project to link the Manila Domestic Airport to the LRT-Baclaran train station," the airline said. "It will make travel to and from the domestic airport easier, faster and more affordable for the growing number of domestic travelers availing of Cebu Pacific's low airfares."

It added that the LRTA rail project proposal jibes with the overall improvement of the domestic airport's facility in terms of accessibility.

At present, two options for the extension are being evaluated. The first calls for an extension directly connecting the LRT-1 Baclaran station to the airport.

"This is the longer option," the

PLANNED/ B3

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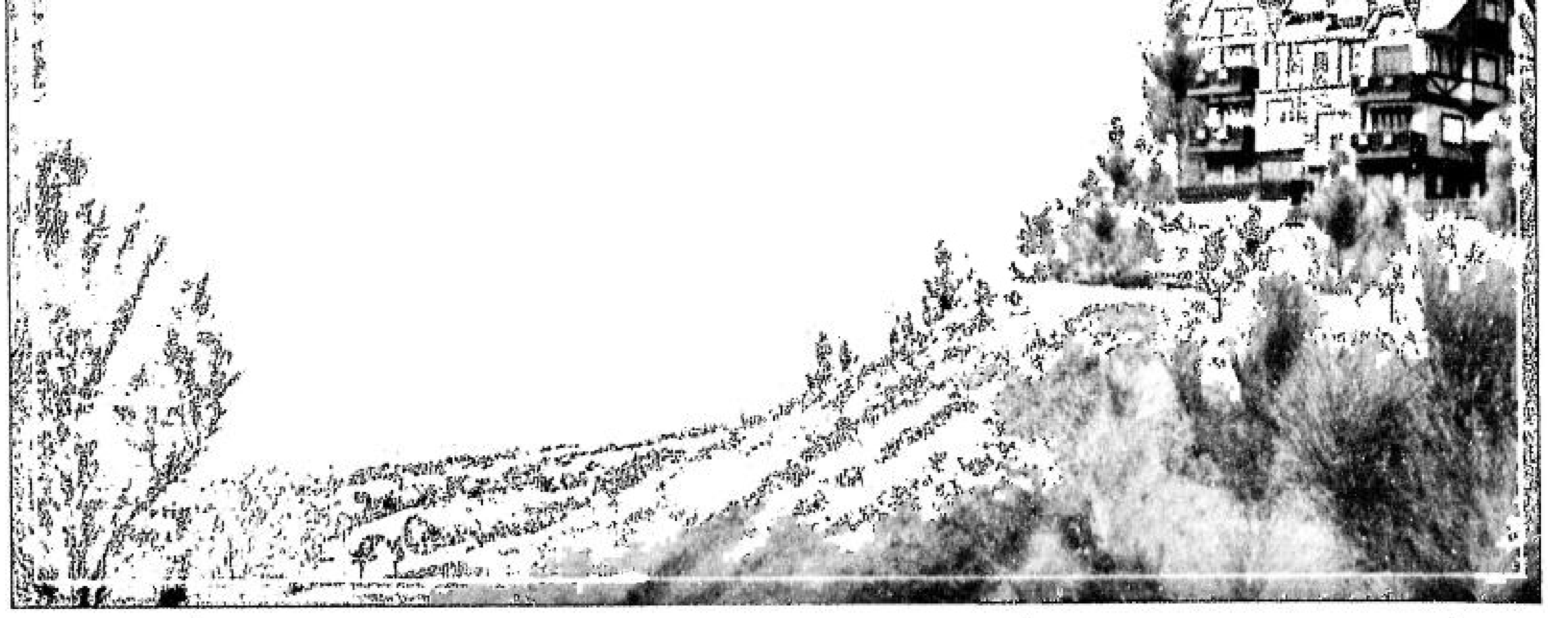

Uniform tax rate to cost gov't ₱17B

By Michelle V. Remo

THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ways and means has finalized the the bill that will impose a uniform income tax rate of 35 percent on individual taxpayers.

While the bill forms part of the tax reform agenda, the Department of Finance said it would result in about P17 billion in forgone government tax revenue.

According to DOF estimates, P15.9 billion of the forgone revenue would be accounted for by salaried individuals, while P1.1 billion would be accounted for by self-employed taxpayers.

The bill, authored by members of the committee, seeks to impose a 35-percent income tax on incomes exceeding P144,000. Any income below the threshold amount are exempted from the tax.

Although the proposed tax rate is higher than the maximum individual income tax rate of 32 percent currently imposed, the bill would result in foregone revenue because of the exemption from the income tax of those earning below P144,000.

The current system provides for five individual income tax rates which are based on income brackets.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said his department had requested the Senate committee on ways and means, headed by Sen. Ralph Recto, to set the implementation of the income tax reform in 2007 the earliest.

This is because the government's 2006 revenue-collection status is still uncertain, given the difficulties faced by the Bureau of Internal Revenue in meeting its tax collection target for the year.

Teves told reporters that the department preferred that the proposed income tax reform be revenue neutral.

The Senate committee on ways and means agreed on the implementation of the income tax reform in January 2007.

The committee, however, did not heed the DOF's call to come up with a bill that will be revenue neutral.

The committee said the imposition of the flat tax was intended to simplify the system and therefore encourage tax compliance and plug revenue leakages.

The bill states that the 35-percent individual income tax will be in effect until end-2008. By January 2009, the bill says, the income tax rate will be reduced to 30 percent.

BPO workforce seen hitting 1M-2M in 2010

By Abigail L. Ho

THE BUSINESS PROCESS OUTsourcing (BPO) industry is seen employing between 1 million and 2 million people by 2010, outpacing the call center industry's targeted employee base of 500,000 by the same period.

In a briefing yesterday, Contact Center Association of the Philippines director Renato Yap said the BPO sector would continue to provide more jobs for the Filipinos in the coming years.

Another CCAP director, PeopleSupport Philippines Inc. president Rainerio Borja, said growth in the BPO sector could be attributed to the fact that certain processes that were not being farmed out before were now being entrusted to third parties.

The industry's continued strong growth is seen to result in a surge in the demand for more workers. The critical issue here, according to the industry, is a possible labor shortage.

According to CCAP, out of the country's 400,000 graduates every year, only 25 percent are deemed "immediately employable," or armed with the right competence and skills to join the BPO and information technology-enabled services sectors.

"Labor shortage is a glaring issue facing us. But this is something we hope we could address," said CCAP director and Pilipinas Teleserv director for marketing and quality Raffy David.

Asked if the labor shortage would mean having to sacrifice quality just to meet the industry's growing demand for people, he said the industry's take-up of projects was "well calculated," or projects were only taken in if they knew that these could be fulfilled and with the same good quality that the country was known for.

RCBC eyes hike in revenue from remittance business

YUCHENGCO-OWNED Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. (RCBC) is bullish about increasing its revenue from the remittance business, targeting to corner $1.5 billion worth of the expected remittances this year.

The $1.5-billion target represents a 50-percent increase from the $1 billion worth of remittances that were coursed through RCBC last year.

RCBC president and chief operating officer Francisco S. Magsajo Jr. said the bank aimed at expanding the contribution of its consumer banking business to the total revenue of RCBC.

He said that currently, consumer banking accounts for 17 percent of RCBC's total revenues. Magsajo said the bank wanted the share to increase to as much as 35 percent over the next three years.

RCBC's remittance business revenue target would be about 12 percent of the more than $11 billion remittances expected to be sent to the country through formal channels this year.

RCBC's target was set following the announcement of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' projection that remittances from overseas Filipino workers (OFW) this year would grow by at least 10 percent from last year's $10.7 billion.

The BSP's forecast was based on the increasing number of deployed Filipinos and the improving quality of jobs available for OFWs.

Last year, the number of Filipinos deployed overseas reached 981,677, 5 percent higher than year-ago level.

RCBC yesterday relaunched its Internet and phone banking services. Magsajo said that while e-banking and phone banking had been part of RCBC's services in the past, the bank wanted to highlight these services as a marketing technique and as a strategy to boost its consumer banking business. *Michelle V. Remo*

ERC official denies links with Masinloc bidder

JESUS ALCORDO, COMMISSIONER OF THE Energy Regulatory Commission, expressed concern over an "apparent well-orchestrated campaign" to drag his name and that of his family into the controversy involving YNN Holdings Inc.'s bid to acquire the 600-megawatt Masinloc power plant in Zambales.

Alcordo said he had no links with YNN Holdings since he had "divested totally from any and all private entities that were connected with this group as early as the year 2000."

Alcordo also said he had consistently inhibited himself from all ERC deliberations on matters involving YNN and related companies.

ERC Chair Rodolfo Albano confirmed that ERC records showed that Alcordo never took part in public hearings and decision-making process in the ERC when the said companies were involved.

"This was because of Commissioner Alcordo's sense of transparency and delicadeza," Albano said.

Alcordo also stressed that no member of his family had any stake in any company interested in the Masinloc deal. He branded as "outright lies" reports saying that a nephew was chief executive officer of an Australian-based company which earlier sought to partner with YNN for the Masinloc project.

Alcordo said the nephew alluded to " was never an employee of that company but was an investment banker whose only role was to introduce his client to prospects in the power industry in the country."

He said he had nothing to do with the discussions and negotiations between the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) and the YNN group on the sale of the Masinloc plant.

Alcordo said that while he was fully supporting the government's privatization program for the power sector, "the regulatory body has no direct involvement in the particular transactions concerning the government's power assets."

"I have completely no influence on that project nor do I intend to intervene at all in that sale," he underscored.

Alcordo added that he did not take part in the public hearings and decision of the ERC on the petition of Meralco for tariff adjustment on its electricity supply contract with Duracom Mobile Power Corp., wherein YNN has a stake.

"It is on record that I never took part in cases involving companies where I held directorial or management positions in the past," he stressed.

"I appeal to these groups to spare innocent parties from the destructive methods they are currently using to attain whatever goal they have," Alcordo said.

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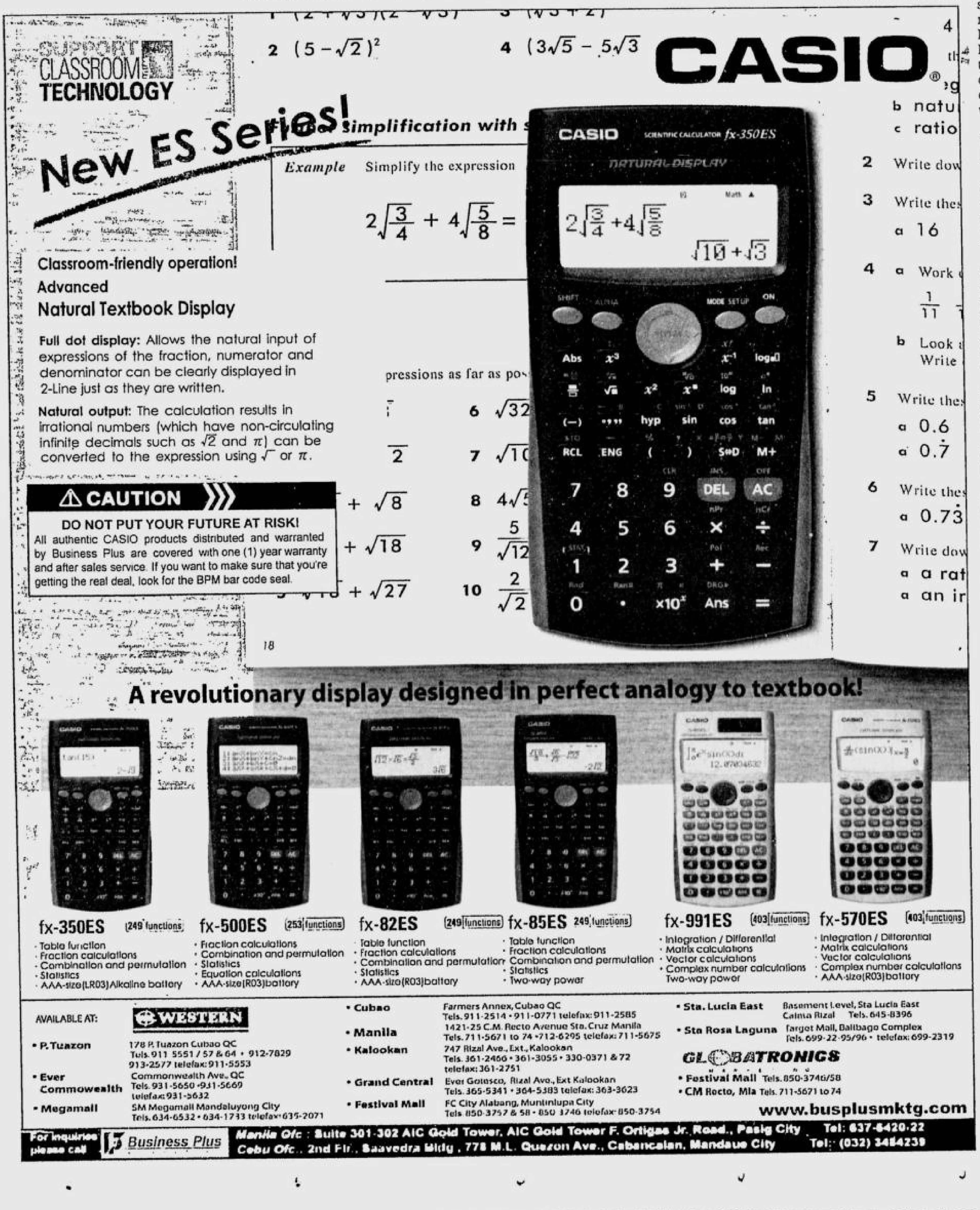
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COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE CASH-STRAPPED GOVERNMENT IS sitting on an even bigger gold mine than what we reported Wednesday.

According to Ortigas and Co. records, the government owns 151.5 hectares of Camp Aguinaldo, and only 26.3 hectares of the 177.8-hectare camp were donated by the landholding company.

Across the road, Ortigas and Co. also donated 8.2 hectares of Camp Crame after selling to the government a total of 32.7 hectares for use of the then constabulary camp.

Both Aguinaldo and Crame donations were anchored on the government's continued military/police use of both camps, which means that should the government decide to privatize the facilities or convert them to other use, the twin donations would revert to Ortigas.

Still, between Crame and Aguinaldo, the government can freely dispose of a combined 184.2 hectares, potentially worth, at an even lower estimate of P20,000 a square meter, P36.8 billion, enough to cover the shortfall of the long-delayed AFP modernization plan.

According to the grapevine, a redevelopment plan for Camp Aguinaldo had been drawn up by a US consulting firm that had been commissioned during the Ramos government, alongside that conducted on Fort Bonifacio.

Even without the wholesale privatization of Aguinaldo, the military establishment still has room to free up precious space for, say, additional housing units for its active personnel.

The underutilized golf course and twin driving ranges in Aguinaldo, for instance, already account for more than 40 hectares, not counting the Air Force golf course in Villamor, the Army-Navy golf course in Bonifacio, and another golf course at the Veterans Hospital.

According to the grapevine, Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz has declined to meet and consider the proposal of Ortigas chief operating officer Rex Drilon II to jointly privatize Aguinaldo, or any other commercial proposal for that matter, preferring that such initiatives be directly coursed to Malacañang.

For the Logistics Command and other military offices that may be displaced, Ortigas and Co. has a 250-hectare property in Teresa, Rizal, (not Tanay as earlier reported) that it could allow the military unlimited usufruct use.

Failing that, an even bigger 800 hectares in the cool mountains of Tanay are also available, courtesy of the partially sequestered Philcomsat Group, where the family of former defense secretary, now Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, still retains a minority stake.

Money-go-round

- THE SHAKEY'S group of Leo Prieto has acquired the shuttered Racks restaurant chain, which will reopen next month starting with the Ortigas branch. The same American menu, centered on ribs and barbecue, will be maintained.
- THE NOW locally controlled PriceSmart warehouse chain is encountering cash-flow challenges, judging from the grumblings of its established suppliers.

Heard through the grapevine

IN CASE you have not noticed, the two leading cellular phone companies have lowered their text messaging charges, to 90 centavos for Globe and to even 80 centavos for Smart, from the previous P1/text.

The Department of Finance now has leeway to resurrect its unpopular proposal to impose a 10-percent VAT on "texting" without the consumer feeling the added burden.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

Peso . . .

From page B1

considered comfortable.

"There is nothing wrong with our economic fundamentals since this (peso depreciation) is more of a reaction to the US Fed statement," said Jonathan Ravelas, market strategist for Banco de Oro. "Hopefully this is just a healthy correction, given that the peso appreciated too fast too soon."

Ravelas said that Banco de Oro sees the peso testing the next level of 53:50 to a dollar over the next few days because of lingering thought of a higher US interest rate and expectations that the Philippine central bank would not likely immediately increase its own interest rates.

Shares . . .

From page B1

hold up against the region-wide sell-off as investors continued under pressure after US Federal Reserve officials issued fresh warnings on inflation risk.

The composite index fell 60.74 points to 2,157.68 after trading between 2,141.37 and 2,223.35. It was the worst finish since March 17, when the market closed at 2,150.17 points. Volume was 3.30 billion shares worth P1.87 billion ($35.3 million).

The all-shares index retreated 33.36 points to 1,367.51.

Losers overwhelmed gainers 109 to seven, with 22 stocks unchanged. *AFP*

Planned . . .

From page B1

LRTA chief said. "The other option is for us to extend it from the depot to the airport."

He conceded that the latter proposal is the cheaper alternative in addition to being the easier one to implement since there will be no right-of-way issues to settle with private landowners or informal settlers.

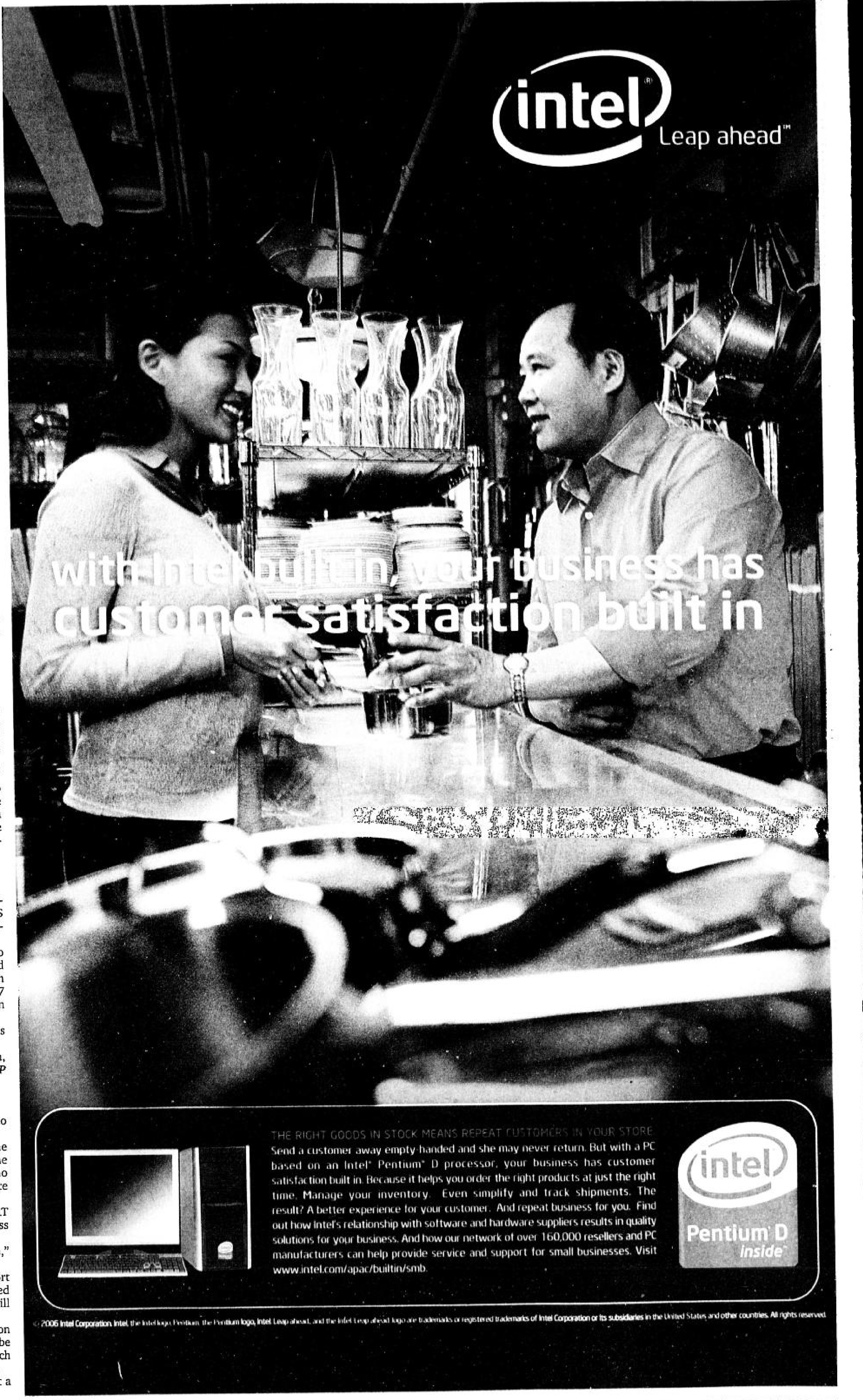
Robles said the rail link will end at an LRT station that will be constructed directly across the domestic terminal.

"This will be very good for an airport line," he said.

The rail link from the depot to the airport may be constructed either on an elevated platform or an underground section that will run parallel to the existing road.

Robles said it is too early to give estimates on the project's cost, but added that it will be cheaper than regular rail projects because much of the necessary facilities are already in place.

"We already have the trains, and it's just a short distance from our depot," he said.



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Vehicle sales down as of May

By Abigail L. Ho

VEHICLE SALES IN THE FIRST FIVE months of the year dipped 1 percent to 37,821 units from 38,315 units last year, which was equivalent to 36 percent of the industry's full-year sales target of 105,000 units.

In a joint report, the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. (Campi) and the Truck Manufacturers Association (TMA) said May sales jumped 16.9 percent to 8,492 units from April sales of 7,264 units.

This was due mainly to intensive marketing promos, the release of new models, and fleet deliveries.

Overall sales would be more stable this month and next, the Campi-TMA report said.

While registering a 2-percent year-on-year sales decline as of end-May, commercial vehicles still accounted for the bulk of January-May sales with 62 percent or 23,466 units.

Month-on-month sales, however, went up 6.8 percent to 5,031 units in May from 4,709 units in April, buoyed by higher sales in the Asian utility vehicle (AUV) and light truck segments.

Light commercial vehicles (LCVs) posted a month-on-month sales decline of 11.5 percent due to stock unavailability and production problems.

Year-on-year sales, however, increased by 8 percent due to financing promos and the launch of some new models.

LCV sales should be at around the same level or even higher in June with the expected stabilization of the production of some models, Campi-TMA said.

Passenger car sales went up one percent to 14,355 units in the first five months of the year from 14,280 in the same period last year.

This segment accounted for 32 percent of the market.

Posting the largest overall sales last month was Toyota Motors Philippines Corp. with 14,652 units or a 38.7-percent share of the market.

Prospects of peace attract more investors to ARMM

At least P146M in new investments were poured in Q1

DAVAO CITY—THE PEACE NEGOtiations between the government and Moro Islamic Liberation Front have boosted the business climate in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

ARMM Trade Secretary Ishak Mastura said that because of the talks, prospective investors from the United States, Japan and China have been looking closely at possible business deals in ARMM.

During the first quarter of the year alone, new investments to the region reached P146 million.

Mastura said one of the biggest investments made in the region last year was the $30-million organic banana plantations in Wao and Bombaran towns in Lanao del Sur.

He said a P200-million poultry project in Maguindanao has also started.

The 20-hectare poultry project, which will cater to the halal market, will be fully operational this year.

In Basilan, the private sector also wants to plant 30 million more rubber trees in anticipation of an increased demand for rubber.

Jan Jakilan, president of Basilan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said China has already expressed interest to import Basilan rubber.

Semi-processed rubber is pegged at P42 a kilo.

A hectare of rubber plantation stands to earn P15,000 to P30,000 in one harvest.

"I am happy to see the increase in investments. This is the effect of the peace process being pushed by the government and MILF," he said.

Mastura said the full economic potential of the ARMM could be fully realized once a peace agreement is signed between the government and MILF.

"A peace agreement is a good booster to the development of ARMM. In fact, the way things are happening between the government and MILF has earned the region the confidence of foreign investors," he said.

Jeffrey M. Tupas and Judy Quiros, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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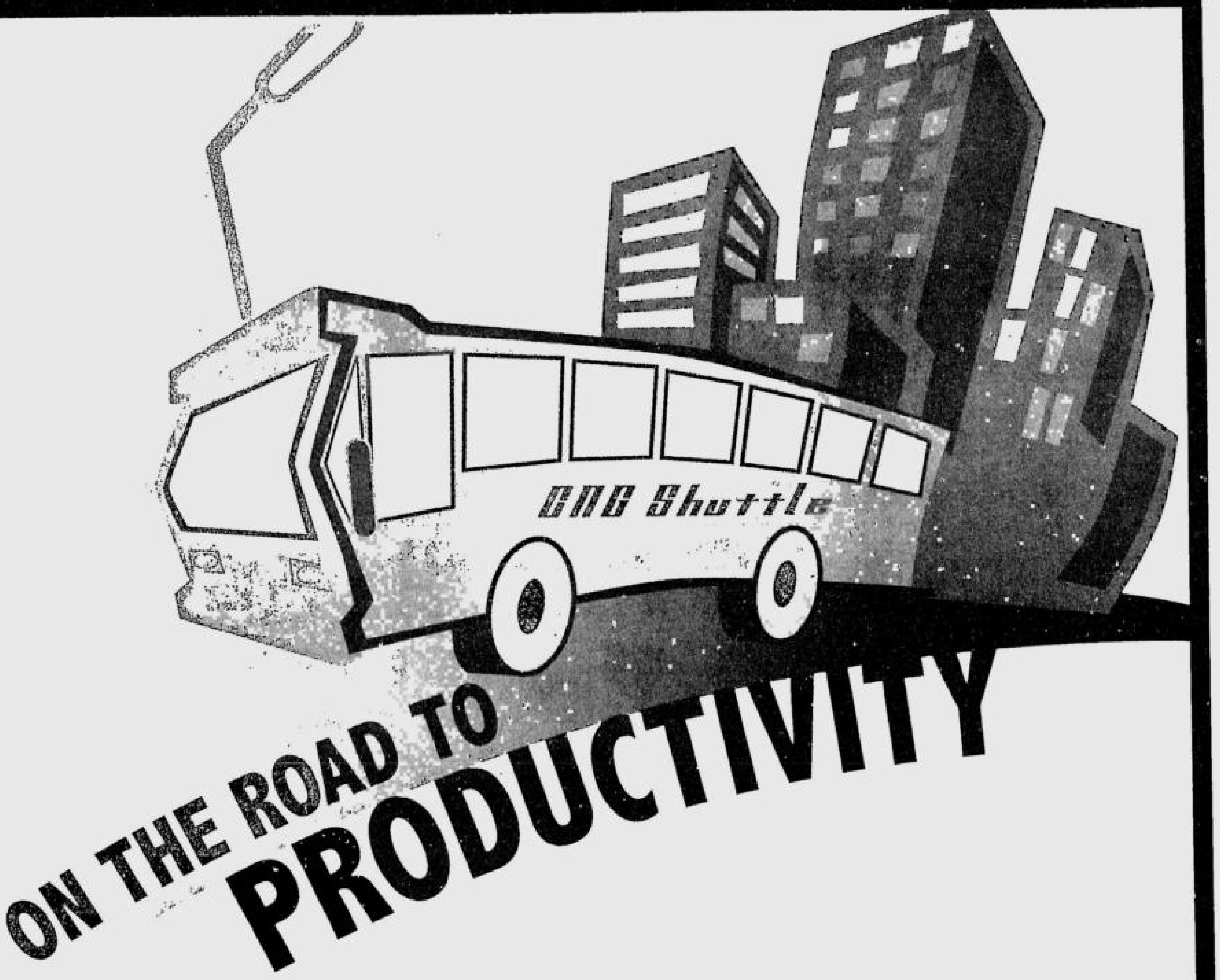
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BPO to expand offices in Cebu

By Irene R. Sino-Cruz
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—A US-BASED BUSINESS PROcess-outsourcing firm sees growth opportunities in Cebu.

PeopleSupport Philippines has already increased its seats here, from the original 300 when it started its Cebu operations to its present workforce of 1,600.

PeopleSupport Inc. chairman and chief executive officer Lance Rosenzweig said here recently that the company planned to further expand its Cebu operations to 2,000 seats within the year.

Rosenzweig came to Cebu for the inauguration of the company's second site here at AsiaTown IT Park.

"We're hiring this year an average 50 new employees every week. We don't see that slowing down. I think over the next few years, we can continue to grow our operations here very significantly," he said.

"The reason is that the teams are performing so well that the clients are very, very happy with their performance and they're encouraging us to continue to grow here," he added.

Asked to comment on the reported shortage of skilled manpower for call center operations in Cebu, Rosenzweig noted that the company was "not seeing that at all."

"By partnering with universities and by helping people who are almost proficient enough to be a rep and building (their) proficiencies. We're seeing a very large pool of workers," he said.

The company's Cebu facility provides the more complex services, such as travel, technology and telecommunications, Rosenzweig said.

He also said the Cebu office was very strong when it came to sales.

"The Cebu teams have done an exceptional job in talking to customers and getting them to sign up for their clients' services," Rosenzweig said.

Fruit growers eye expansion

By Christine A. Gaylican

PAGADIAN CITY—MINDANAO FRUIT GROWers and processors are expanding operations in the region in anticipation of a more robust export market.

Profood International Corp., the Consunji-owned Sirawan Foods, Motherland Food Products and the Amley Food Corp. are just some of the companies looking to expand operations in Davao and Cagayan de Oro.

Fresh mango exporters based in Metro Manila are likewise expanding their sourcing and consolidation operations in Mindanao.

These include Diamond Star Corp., Marsman-Drysdale Co., DHM and Hi-Las Marketing Inc., which have buying stations and agent-representative offices in Davao, General Santos and Cagayan de Oro.

Other fruit products, particularly fresh bananas and banana chips, are also facing bright prospects, according to Carlos Bautista, general manager of Koronadal City-based Sunbliss Internationale Eximports.

"The way I see it, the demand for fresh bananas and banana chips will continue to rise in the years to come," Bautista said.

In Tagum, Davao del Norte, Lucille Food Products, a local producer of banana chips established a marketing arrangement with food, beverage and packaging conglomerate San Miguel Corp., to re-process and re-package Lucille's banana chips into assorted flavors such as sweet, hot and salty.

This would allow the company to eventually go into exports aside from manufacturing fruit drinks.

Last year, the Philippines exported approximately $362.6 million worth of fresh and processed banana products, 11 percent higher than in 2004, according to the National Statistics Office (NSO).

DOT steps up campaign to win S. Korean tourists

By Ronnel W. Domingo

SEOUL—THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM yesterday kicked into high gear its localized approach to luring more visitors from South Korea in a bid to maintain the lion's share of visitors bound to Southeast Asia by the end of the year.

Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace H. Durano said in an interview that the DOT was aiming at 600,000 arrivals from South Korea in 2006 or 17 percent higher than some 490,000 that came in last year.

"That is a prudent projection considering that the number of Korean visitors grew by an average of 30 percent (to about 145,000) in the first quarter," Durano said.

"This rate is even greater than the growth of total outbound visitors from Korea and has made the Philippines an all-time Asian favorite destination among Koreans," he added.

In keeping with the market-savvy approach that the DOT has adopted since the former lawmaker took the post late in 2004, 30-seconder television spots that would be aired in local networks was "unveiled" before a gathering of travel agents at the Millennium Hilton Hotel in this city.

Themed "7,107 Philippines: More than you can imagine," the campaign appeals to family vacationers, newlyweds and leisure seekers like golf aficionados.

Durano explains that the theme aimed at letting the Koreans know that there is more to the Philippines that just beaches, for which the country is mainly known for here.

Yesterday's launch provided the opening shot for a DOT-led mission's participation in the Korean World Travel Fair 2006 that opens today and would wrap up on June 11.

Durano explained that the DOT undertook extensive study of the markets using research tools like surveys and focus group discussions to come up with a new tack.

"What we learned was that we needed to arrive at a consensus among different government agencies as well as the private sector in what markets to prioritize for promotional activities," he said.

"The inevitable result, as it seems now, was to focus on North Asia—Japan, Korea and China—mainly because we are the nearest tropical destination for their tourists," he added.

Key factors of the new campaign strategy include using local print and broadcast media to run advertisements in the local language and carrying words and visuals that are most appealing to the specific market.

As for South Korea, Durano announced that singer-actress Eugene Kim, who has a strong following in both her country and the Philippines, has been tapped to serve as tourism envoy.

"Kim was picked because she fits the demographics of our target market—the honeymooners and young single people or those with families who are all looking for holiday destinations," he said.

The 25-year-old Kim, who started her career as part of an all-female singing group, has starred in four telenovelas—one of which has aired in the Philippines while another is currently running on ABS-CBN.

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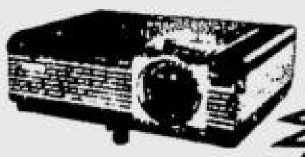

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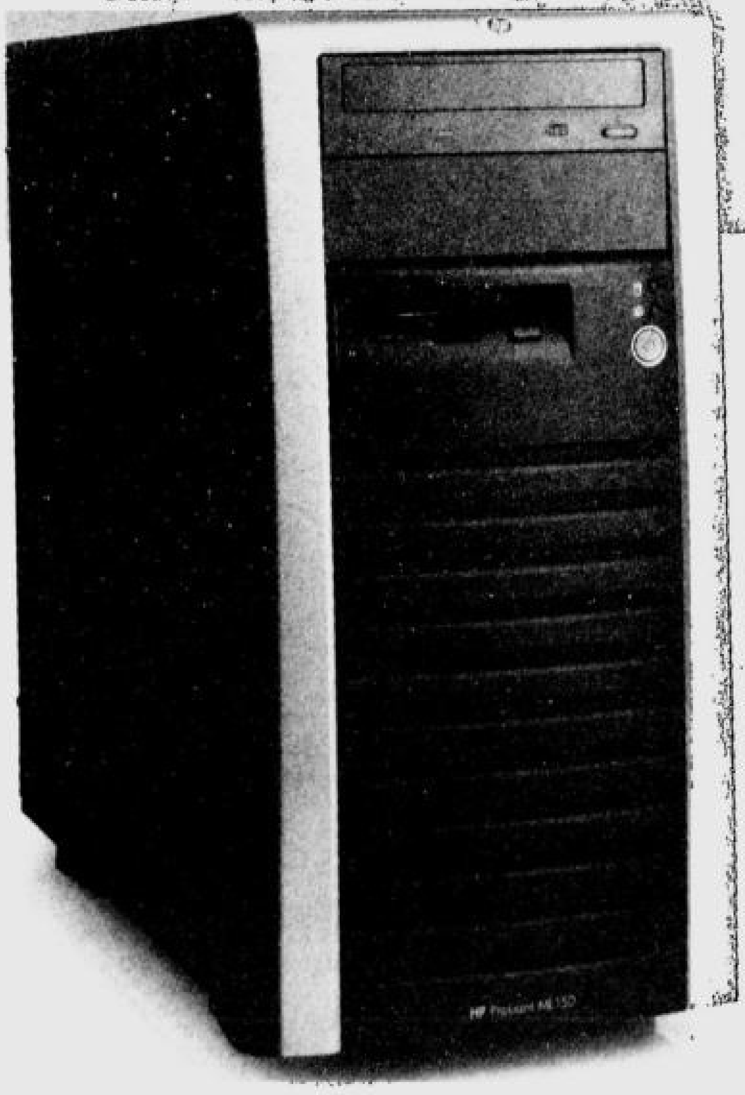
E-mail: info@cibeles.com.ph Website: http://www.cibeles.com.ph

SYNOPSIS OF ANNUAL STATEMENT

As of December 31, 2004

ADMITTED ASSETS	
Bonds	P 397,174,753.74
Stocks	17,132,390.39
Real Estate	106,513,792.34
Security Fund	13,671.00
Other Investments	4,630,000.00
Cash on Hand and in Banks	228,915,261.18
Premiums Receivable	11,967,829.73
Premiums Due from Ceding Companies	5,782,149.42
Premiums Reserve Witheld by Ceding Companies	2,491,676.75
Reinsurance Recoverable on Losses	102,854,690.67
Accrued Investment Income	8,304,425.88
Electronic Data Processing Machine	323,433.29
Total Admitted Assets	**P 886,104,074.39**
LIABILITIES	
Losses and Claims Payable	P 166,547,917.45
Loss Adjustment Expenses Payable	465,515.69
Reserve for Unearned Premiums	50,855,084.40
Catastrophe Loss Reserve	680,413.54
Premiums Due to Reinsurers	38,048,664.53
Premiums Reserve Withheld for Reinsurers	15,974,056.65
Commissions Payable	4,388,409.47
Accrued Expenses	939,605.39
Taxes Payable	75,029,066.33
Other Liabilities	32,481,931.29
Total Liabilities	**P 385,410,664.74**
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	
Capital Stock Paid-Up	P 200,000,000.00
Contributed Surplus	100,000.00
Contingency Surplus	594,941.67
Special Surplus Funds:	
Fluctuation Reserve - Stocks	6,411,968.67
Fluctuation Reserve - Foreign Exchange	11,497,605.89
Revaluation Reserve - Real Estate	42,957,750.00
Retained Earnings	239,131,143.42
Total Stockholders' Equity	**500,693,409.65**
Total Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity	**P 886,104,074.39**

(This synopsis, prepared from the 2004 Annual Statement, approved by the Insurance Commissioner, is published pursuant to Section 225 of the Insurance Code.)



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NEVER HAS THIS SERVER BEEN SO REWARDING!

Purchase this HP ProLiant Server ML150 G2 bundle, get a hard disk for free and get a chance to win exciting prizes in the raffle draw . HP ProLiant ML150 G2 Server's remarkable value is perfect for workgroups and small-to-medium businesses that need dependable server performance and trusted service and support. Powered by the latest Intel® Xeon® Processor which includes Intel® Extended Memory 64 Technology for faster performance, you can depend on it for most of your business needs. And now is the perfect time to experience the HP Proliant ML150 G2's performance, manageability and scalability. From May 1 to June 30, 2006, you get a free hard disk for every purchase of this HP Proliant ML150 G2 bundle. On top of that, you get a chance to win some exciting prizes in the raffle draw.

P108,000 | HP PROLIANT ML150 G2

- One Intel® Xeon® Processor which includes Intel® Extended Memory 64 Technology (2 MB L2 cache, 3.20GHz, 800MHz FSB) (up to 2 supported)
- 512MB PC2700 DDR SDRAM Memory (8GB Max)
- Broadcom 5721 PCI-Express Gigabit NIC (embedded) 10/100/1000 WOL
- 72GB U320 Hot Pluggable Hard Drive
- **Get an additional HP 72GB U320 HDD for FREE**

Toys for The I.T. Boys Promo Mechanics:
1. Purchase the HP Proliant ML150 G2 Server Bundle and get a chance to win the following prizes in the Toys for the IT Boys raffle draw:
   1 x Sony PSP
   1 x iPOD Nano
   1 x HP Compaq nx9040 Notebook
2. To qualify, please email the following details to hp@stratworks.net : your name, company, address, contact numbers, email address, date of purchase, sales person and reseller name with copy of reseller invoice.
3. Once we have validated the information, your email will serve as your entry for the raffle.
4. All purchases for consideration in the raffle must be received by Stratworks by July 15, 2006.
5. Raffle draw shall be held at Stratworks, Inc. on July 30, 2006 in the presence of an HP representative.
6. Prizes are not convertible to cash.
7. Promotion offer is not valid with any other type of discounting and/or promotional offer.
8. For more information, please contact Joy Alover, Stratworks Inc. at phone number (02) 893-7472 to 73 / 751-3805 to 06

Get a chance to win the following prizes in the raffle draw when you purchase this HP ProLiant ML150 G2 bundle:

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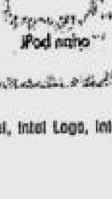
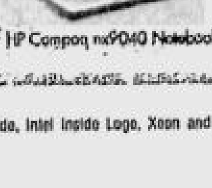


iPod nano



HP Compaq nx9040 Notebook

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Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Cannes or Canute?

Oscars of advertising will have 25,000 entries, 10,000 participants this year

By David Guerrero
Contributor

LEGEND HAS IT THAT KING Canute (994-1035) took his throne down to the sea, ordered the waves to stop—and then of course got very wet.

Additional legend has it he was in fact wiser than he's given credit for and actually did this to prove to his devoted followers that even a King's powers had their limits.

Which sounds like a nice bit of post-rationalization? But hey, in those days, monarchs could write history—even if they couldn't quite command the tides.

These days it's our national boundaries that have basically disappeared under the waves of ubiquitous web technology and free international trade.

And we can hold back these forces about as easily as good old King Canute could hold back the cold, grey seas.

This alarms some traditionalists who see globalization as some kind of ugly rumor. And who see sinister motives in the evaluation of ideas by global standards.

They would have us shout "Stop!" to the world's marketing community and care only about what happens in our little corner of the world.

Which is fine. Except for one problem. And it's the same one Canute demonstrated about a thousand years ago.

Our clients operate in a globalized environment. Either they're part of it—or competing in it—often highly successfully.

A product can be made in China. But the label owned by companies in, for example, Portland or Milan or Tokyo.

And just as it doesn't really matter where something is made, it doesn't matter where great ideas come from either.

An idea from Manila can be worth more than one from Miami. All it needs is to be given a fair chance.

And the International Advertising Festival held annually in Cannes is about as close to a "fair chance" as any idea will get. This year over 25,000 entries will be judged.

With over 10,000 of the leading figures in the world's communication industries there to witness the results.

Many of these will be senior clients. From P&G, McDonalds and Sony to name a few. And they will be well looked after by their respective advertising agencies. (The Cannes Festival will be on June 17-25 in France this year.)

Categories include promotions, media, cyber, direct and radio—as well as the more established competitions in press, outdoor and film (a fancy word for commercials).

Judges will be looking at ideas first and foremost. But with an instinctive professional feel for what would best resonate with the consumers the idea is aimed at.

At the end of it all the best work will be selected and recognized. Not always perfectly. But in a way that most recognize as fair.

So why does everyone bother? Surely all that matters is that an ad works and the sale is made. Who cares if someone did something better half way round the world? Who cares if an idea is original or not?

Well, surprisingly enough, it's those same hard-nosed capitalist brand owners we mentioned at the beginning.

They know that people increasingly have the means and sophistication to select what they believe and what they'll listen to.

They know that people engage more with relevant messages crafted in a surprising way. And they are recognizing the need for an external measure of this.

Good ideas are so precious they can travel a long way in a very time. And as always the rewards go to those who originate rather than those who simply adopt and adapt.

That's where competitions like Cannes come into play. And that is where the future of our country's industry will be determined.

At the moment, many clients are choosing to make other countries their Asia Pacific centers of creativity and production. Principally these are Thailand and Singapore.

There are some clients—not enough but some—who wisely choose to originate regional work from Manila.

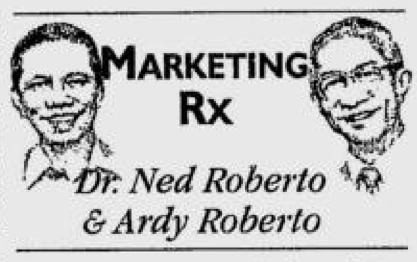
But they are still the exception rather than the rule. And the challenge we must take on, as an industry, is to make more regional clients sit up and take notice.

Because the more we are recognized as a country that produces great ideas, the more clients will give us the chance to produce them and export them.

And the more we can export ideas rather than just translate them from somewhere else, the more our industry will develop. It's as simple as that.

Otherwise, as King Canute could tell you, if you try to hold back the tide, you're going to end up getting soaked.

'How important is innovation for companies to live longer?'



ONCE MORE here's our guest columnist, best-selling marketing author and brand strategist, Al Ries. He is joined by his daughter, Laura Ries, co-author of The 22 Immutable Laws of Branding and The Origin of Brands. They will both be in Manila on June 23 for the INQUIRER sponsored Al Ries' Brand Marketing Conference.

Q: Can you give examples of companies which applied differentiation and product innovation successfully?

A: As categories diverge, there are many opportunities for companies to build brands to take advantages of divergence.

- Palm, the first handheld computer.
- BlackBerry, the first wireless e-mail device.
- Red Bull, the first energy drink.
- Quicken, the first financial software for personal computers.
- The Body Shop, the first natural cosmetics chain.
- Absolut, the first expensive vodka.
- Grey Goose, the first ultra-expensive vodka.

Take Toyota, for example. Instead of launching a line of expensive cars under the Toyota Super (or similar name), Toyota instead launched a second brand called Lexus. Lexus has become the largest-selling luxury car in America, outselling Cadillac, BMW, Mercedes and Lincoln.

Q: How important is "differentiation" and "innovation" for companies to stand still and live longer?

Ries: You need to differentiate between a brand and a company. A brand lives or dies by its category. Polaroid was a powerful instant photography brand. But when instant photography declined, so did the Polaroid brand.

The Polaroid company, however, could have prospered by introducing new brands to exploit new categories. They probably should have introduced a new brand of digital cameras. Instead, they tried to use the Polaroid brand on regular film and a variety of other products. They all were failures and Polaroid, the company, went bankrupt.

Kodak is making the same mistake as Polaroid did. They are trying to save the brand when they should be trying to save the company. The Kodak brand means photographic film. Yet because the photographic film business is dying, Kodak is trying to use its brand name on digital cameras and other digital products. Big mistake. They should have used a new brand.

Q: What is business and marketing divergence all about?

Ries: In nature, changes in the environment create the conditions that cause species to diverge. In business, changes in technology and in the cultural environment create the conditions that cause categories to diverge.

First there was broadcast television which allowed the creation of three network TV brands: CBS, NBC and ABC. Then cable television emerged and a proliferation of cable TV brands followed. HBO, ESPN, CNN and many others. Then satellite television arrived on the scene, creating opportunities for DirecTV and the Dish network.

Put yourself in the shoes of an executive of a company wanting to get into television just as cable TV was starting to emerge.

Are you better off trying to take a piece of an established market like network TV or are you better off trying to establish a new brand in an uncertain new category like cable TV?

Hindsight is 20/20. Today the answer to the question is cable TV, but that wasn't so obvious back in 1968 when the FCC first authorized pay-cable transmission.

- It wasn't ABC, CBS or NBC that started CNN, the first cable-television news network. It was billboard tycoon Ted Turner who also put the first local TV station on a satellite creating "superstation" WTBS.
- It wasn't ABC, CBS or NBC that started ESPN, the first cable-television sports network. It was Scott Rasmussen and his father Bill Rasmussen who launched ESPN with a $9,000 cash advance on a credit card.
- It wasn't ABC, CBS or NBC that started HBO, the first premium cable television network. It was Charles Dolan, the man who was running Sterling Manhattan, a cable system controlled by Time Inc. (Dolan moved on to found Cablevision Systems, now the nation's fifth largest cable operator.)

And so it goes. Big companies tend to see things the way they are. Entrepreneurs tend to see things the way they could be.

MarketingRx is hosting Al Ries and his marketing advice column until July. If you have any questions for us or for Al Ries send them to us at MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919-314-5412. God bless!

Leasing shows good growth

PCI LEASING AND FINANCE INC. (PCILF), one of the country's largest leasing and finance companies and a subsidiary of the Equitable PCI Bank Group, bested all major industry players in terms of total resources, portfolio, bookings/sales, and net income in 2005.

"We are immensely pleased with the well-timed execution of our strategies and our team's diligent focus on growing the portfolio size and quality," said PCILF president and chief executive officer Manolo C. Arzadon.

Based on the audited financial reports for 2005, PCILF ranked No. 1 in total resources, which reached P8.25 billion for the year, or nearly double that of its closest competitor. It also ranked first in total portfolio at P7.31 billion, and has the largest leasing portfolio in the industry at P3.77 billion. PCILF is reputed for offering innovative services, including direct lease, sale and leaseback, and amortized commercial loans. Its financing portfolio likewise topped competition.

In terms of total loans and leases booked, PCILF was virtually unchallenged at P9.97 billion, as the next competitor was a far second with about a quarter of that amount. PCILF's lease bookings registered at P2.56 billion, propelled in part by increased business through referrals from other bank units as well as expansion in growth areas.

The company thus ended the year with a net income of P393.8 million. It attributed its consistent profitability to product and service quality, cost-efficient operations, aggressive marketing strategies, and solid parent-bank support. The expertise and professionalism of its key personnel have also reinforced its competitive edge. Its president and chief executive officer, Manolo C. Arzadon, was inducted into the 2005 Asia Business Leader Awards Honor Roll, a permanent list of exemplary executives in the region.

Another highlight for 2005 was SEC's approval of PCILF's P1 billion short-term commercial paper (STCP) license application. The Philippine Ratings Services Corp. (Philratings) gave the STCP issuance a "Best Grade" rating of PRS 1, which signified the strongest capability for timely payment of STCP issue for both principal and interest. It further validated the soundness of PCILF's liquidity position as well as the strength of its capital size and quality.

Sustainable design: New trend in building

EDUCATING ARCHITECTS, DESIGNERS and engineers in sustainable design is needed to fuel the country's support for the worldwide movement.

"Upholding sustainability is the only key to efficiently use our scarce resources so it would fulfill our present and future needs," Federal Land Inc. president Alfred Ty said.

Its projects include GT International Tower and the Metropolitan Park, a 40-hectare "City in a Park" development.

Federal Land is the property arm of the Metrobank Group of Companies. It recently partnered with Metrobank Foundation in organizing a competition that challenges local interior designers to take a big step toward sustainable design.

The Metrobank Art and Design Excellence or MADE is a national contest that highlights a new generation of gifted artists in the fields of painting, sculpture, architecture and interior design.

For 2006, the chosen theme for the interior design category is sustainable design—with a vision that it would fuel a shared sense of conviction for an all-out effort in rescuing our environment.

Sustainability in interior design or architecture entails a thorough understanding of the environmental impact of a certain design. It requires an initiative to learn about the most distant consequences of one's choices, consciously choosing products that are not manufactured in exploitative ways to ensure that one is designing and building in harmony with the environment.

MADE participants for the interior design category will be required to make a design for a conceptual tri-level housing using indigenous materials with biodegradable, anti-toxic and fire resistive qualities. For information on the MADE competition, call 898-8856; on Federal Land projects, call 886-0000 or log on to www.federalland.com.ph.

Supermarket goes for a healthier business

RESPONDING TO THE UPtrend on wellness and healthier lifestyles which cuts across all sectors of society, Robinsons Supermarket recently launched its "Whole Health Section" offering a variety of products for the health-conscious consumer. Its slogan, "Eat Well Spend Less," sums up the store's thrust to promote healthy living by educating and empowering shoppers on their choice of foods and products.

"Consumers are more aware of diet and nutrition and are looking for guidance in making decisions about their food purchases," says Jody Gadia, Robinsons Supermarket's general manager.

Studies show that Filipinos put a premium on the saying "health is wealth."

According to a recent AC Nielsen survey commissioned by United Laboratories, the A, B and C markets are conscious about their weight and physical appearance. Of the 50 percent of the respondents who feel they are overweight, about 83 percent are trying to lose weight by cutting down on fats (39 percent); limiting their intake of chocolates and sweets (23 percent); taking diet pills (5 percent) and by following the Atkins diet (4 percent). Majority of the weight conscious also prefer to exercise.

The increased awareness and commitment to being healthy can be seen not only on food choices but also on the proliferation of gyms, health spas and sports/exercise centers in the country.

"We want to tap customers of all ages because we believe that eating healthy and being conscious of proper nutrition is a must for everyone. Among our main customers, though, are mothers who are concerned about their family's well-being and health-conscious young professionals," Gadia explains.

The "Whole Health Section" is a permanent destination area that is filled with food and products such as vitamins, over-the-counter (OTC) medicines and health supplements, low fat milk, cereals, low-sugar drinks, low-fat, low-cholesterol and high-calcium products among others, grouped together according to their benefits. It is adjacent to the fresh department that offers a wide selection of meats, seafood, fruits, vegetables and dairy products.

Forming part of Robinsons Supermarket's objective is to educate consumers that healthy foods need not be expensive, a misconception held by many. Promotions like the Apple Tag Specials offer price-offs and special premiums for more value make them well within the reach of a wider market. And, as a form of public service, they have partnered with suppliers to offer activation programs like free nutrition counseling, dental consultations, bone scanning, blood pressure testing and blood sugar testing.

By end of 2006, all Robinsons Supermarket outlets will have its Whole Health Section to better serve its shoppers.

Gadia says that the public's response has been most encouraging. "We notice that more and more shoppers have taken advantage of this section and the attendant activities being offered."

GADIA

Exchange unlikely to meet brokers' ownership cap by July

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE IS having a tough time meeting a deadline set by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to cut to 20 percent the stake held by brokers in the bourse by July from the current level of 52 percent.

The Securities Regulation Code (SRC) sets at not more than 20 percent the ownership of a single industry in the PSE.

An individual should also not hold more than 5 percent stake in the bourse. The SRC was enacted in 2000, in reaction to the BW Resources Corp. gaming stock scandal which painted a negative image of stockbrokers.

"Realistically speaking, we cannot meet the deadline by July. We will try our best to do what is incumbent upon us to do according to the law," PSE president Francis Lim said.

Lim also said the bourse would ask the SEC for a "reasonable" extension of the deadline.

"We will discuss with the SEC the difficulties in complying with the law. We can't force a broker to sell out," Lim said.

Lim said there were foreign investors interested in buying PSE shares.

The brokers, however, were not willing to part with their shares at a low price.

Recently, Hong Kong investment management firm Value Partners Ltd. offered to buy up to 5 percent of the PSE shares for P155.4 million. But the brokers were not keen on selling at this price.

The sale of additional PSE shares held by brokers would boost the bourse's efforts to fully "demutualize."

Certain brokers holding a total of 188,000 shares said were willing to sell out to the Hong Kong group.

Sources estimated the PSE's indicative price was between P200 and P300 a share. It closed at P210 per share yesterday.

Last year, a fund affiliate of Equinox Partners bought additional PSE shares from the Singaporean investment group Kim Eng, resulting in Kim Eng's exit from the PSE as a shareholder.

The Equinox group, through global custodian Goldman Sachs and local custodian Standard Chartered Bank, had assigned its proxies to ATR Kim-Eng Securities for the recent PSE annual meeting.

Other major institutions that own PSE shares are the retirement funds of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and beverage and food conglomerate San Miguel Corp., and the state pension fund Government Service Insurance System.

The Armed Forces and Police Savings and Loan Association, Inc (AFPSLAI) was awarded two Gawad CONSLAs during the recently concluded 15th Annual Convention of the Confederation of Non-Stock Savings and Loan Associations (CONSLA) last May 19, 2006 held at the Hotel Elizabeth in Baguio City. Said awards were in recognition of AFPSLAI's praiseworthy socio-civic projects for its members and their dependents and for pioneering the adoption of the Philippine Financial Reporting Standards for a Parent Company. These were received by newly elected AFPSLAI President & CEO, MGen Rolando N Floria Ret (*4th from left*) In photo are members of the AFPSLAI delegation during the said convention: (*from left to right*) Atty Samuel B Padilla (SVP, Admin); Mr Hector M Atienza (SVP, Treasury); Ms Marilyn G Gahite (Head, HRMD); P/Dir Rufino G Ibay Jr Ret (outgoing CONSLA President) & Mr Gilberto T Acuesta (SVP, Operations). Advt

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of June 8, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.4	5.4	32,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	36	36	33.5	34	356,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	51.5	52	49.5	50	1,613,600
China Banking Corp.	875	875	870	870	500
Citystate Savings Bank	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	300
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	2,330,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	71.5	72	71.5	72	473,900
International Exch. Bank	41.5	41.5	41	41	113,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	33	33.5	32.5	32.5	961,700
Philippine National Bank	33	33	33	33	3,300
Phil. Savings Bank	39.5	39.5	39.5	39.5	10,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	18.75	18.75	17.5	18	80,500
Security Bank Corp.	49	49	48	49	95,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	46.5	46.5	46	46	3,300
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Filipino Fund Inc.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	1,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	31	31.5	31	31.5	2,100
Manulife Financial Corp.	1785	1785	1785	1785	10
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1	0.98	0.98	350,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2080	2080	2000	2080	2,180
Ivantage Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.16	1.16	2,631,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	43	44.5	42	44.5	70,500
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	45	45	41	42	1,482,700
Manila Electric Co. A	13.75	13.75	13.5	13.75	28,700
Manila Electric Co. B	21.5	21.5	21	21.5	590,400
Manila Water Co. Inc.	7.1	7.1	6.9	7	2,510,000
Petron Corp.	3.9	3.95	3.7	3.75	6,657,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	100,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	44,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.91	0.91	0.89	0.9	470,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
CADP Group Corp.	2.28	2.28	2.26	2.26	30,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23	23	23	23	20,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	33.5	33.5	32	33	291,700
Roxas Holdings Inc.	2.65	2.65	2.6	2.6	2,445,000
San Miguel Corp. A	63	63.5	63	63.5	52,800
San Miguel Corp. B	70.5	70.5	69.5	70	401,900
Universal Robina Corp.	19.75	19.75	19	19.25	357,900
Vitarich Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	200,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.28	0.29	0.27	0.29	1,510,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.14	1,494,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.6	4.6	4.55	4.55	6,433,000
CHEMICALS					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.5	0.73	0.5	0.73	20,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.08	0.0875	0.07	0.075	37,600,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.0625	0.0625	1,700,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.24	0.24	0.2	0.2	390,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	179,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	10,000,000
Ayala Corp.	367.5	367.5	345	345	405,770
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	200,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	552,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.022	0.023	20,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.55	3.55	3,646,000
APC Group Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.18	0.18	1,670,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	26,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.87	0.9	0.83	0.83	780,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	28,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1.44	1.5	1.42	1.5	147,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	60,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	53,100
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.04	1.04	0.99	0.99	25,989,000
Dmci Holdings Inc.	3.85	3.85	3.5	3.6	1,924,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.9	3.1	2.9	3.1	154,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	21,000
J.G. Summit Holdings, Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.1	6.4	1,316,000
Medco Holdings	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	200,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.165	0.165	540,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.125	0.125	3,500,000
SM Investments Corp.	225	226	218	219	257,310
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	50,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.0525	0.0525	0.05	0.05	1,600,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.09	0.09	2,200,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	12	12.25	11.5	12	24,492,900
Belle Corp.	1.04	1.04	1	1.02	9,292,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	4,000,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.96	1.96	1.84	1.84	785,000
C&P Homes Inc.	1.52	1.52	1.5	1.5	90,000
Cebu Prop. Vent B	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	40,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.185	0.185	8,360,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.54	0.58	21,850,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.73	0.73	120,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	1,000,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.28	1.3	10,659,000
Interport Res. B	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	26,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.225	0.225	0.205	0.205	3,170,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.48	1.5	1.38	1.5	74,956,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.215	0.215	0.2	0.205	12,030,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	100,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	11.25	11.25	10.5	10.75	584,600
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.28	0.28	0.25	0.26	3,420,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.7	7.7	7.4	7.4	14,185,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.58	0.58	130,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	2,400,000
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	14.75	14.75	14	14	26,900
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.14	1.18	4,554,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	860	860	820	830	122,830
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.55	3.55	3.25	3.4	3,143,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1950	1950	1915	1920	142,490
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.165	0.165	1,210,000
Ionics Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.46	1,504,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	1,400,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	26,700,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.16	1.16	121,000
Philweb Corp.	0.031	0.031	0.029	0.03	523,200,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.6	165,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	13.75	14	13.75	13.75	3,380,500
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	70,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	4.45	4.45	4.45	4.45	620,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.4	1.42	250,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.56	0.58	460,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	1.96	1.96	1.88	1.88	150,000
Paxys Inc.	11.25	11.25	11	11.25	285,700
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.008	0.008	0.0075	0.0075	118,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.6	6.6	6.3	6.3	3,018,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	30,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.28	0.28	0.25	0.26	21,780,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.33	0.33	0.31	0.31	20,080,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.021	0.021	0.02	0.02	173,300,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.023	0.023	0.022	0.022	108,900,000
Omico Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.0075	0.008	839,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	3.4	3.4	3	3.15	15,480,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	3.45	3.45	3	3.2	23,087,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	27	27	27	27	264,100
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	300,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	200,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.27	3,340,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.01	0.01	0.0095	0.0095	378,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.01	0.01	0.009	0.01	188,100,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.02	1.02	0.97	1.02	836,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.02	1.02	0.8	1.02	485,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	15	15	13.5	14.25	694,200
PREFERRED					
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	14.75	14.75	14.25	14.25	235,200

DISCLOSURES

LAWYER Sabino Padilla Jr., Stephen C. Roxas, Andrew I. Liuson, Grace C. Liuson, Helen C. Roxas and Alice C. Gohoc were elected directors of **Cityland Development Corp.** on June 6. Named independent directors were Washington Sycip and Peter Dee.

***

THOMAS J. Barrack Jr. has tendered his resignation as director of **Megaworld Corp.** effective June 6.

***

THE BOARD of directors of **Crown Equities Inc.** has approved the rescheduling of the firm's annual stockholders' meeting from June 27 to July 28.

Compiled by Kate Pedroso, PDI Research

CURRENCIES

June 8, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.781739	1.000000	52.9160
Japan	Yen	0.006886	0.008809	0.4661
United Kingdom	Pound	1.450907	1.856000	98.2121
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.100716	0.128836	6.8175
Switzerland	Franc	0.640140	0.818867	43.3312
Canada	Dollar	0.702624	0.898796	47.5607
Singapore	Dollar	0.493055	0.630716	33.3750
Australia	Dollar	0.579968	0.741895	39.2581
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.073632	2.652590	140.3645
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.208452	0.266652	14.1102
Brunei	Dollar	0.491505	0.628733	33.2700
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000084	0.000107	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.020403	0.026099	1.3811
UAE	Dirham	0.212834	0.272257	14.4068
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.279200	67.6901
Denmark	Kroner	0.134105	0.171547	9.0776
India	Rupee	0.017065	0.021829	1.1551
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.213852	0.273560	14.4757
Mexico	New Peso	0.068831	0.088048	4.6591
New Zealand	Dollar	0.489045	0.625586	33.1035
South Africa	Rand	0.116114	0.148533	7.8598
Korea	Won	0.000825	0.001055	0.0558
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024315	-0.031104	1.6459

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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

NOTICE OF SALE THRU AUCTION/SMDP

The National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce that it will be accepting sealed offers for the Sale thru Auction/SMDP of US Long Grains White Rice (4% Brokens) and Iron Fortified Rice under the 2005 USPL-480 Title I Program as follows:

Commodity	Volume(bgs)	Indicative Price	Location
Long Grains White Rice	48,800 MT More or Less	P1,100.00/bag	NFA Region III
Iron-fortified Rice	16,200 MT More or Less	P1,100.00/bag	NCR-NDO

The pre-auction/SMDP conference and auction/SMDP proper shall be held at 10:00 a.m. at the NFA Training Room, 7th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Q.C. on the following dates or until the whole volume for auction has been sold/exhausted:

Pre-Auction Conference	Auction Proper
June 13, 2006	June 15, 2006
June 20, 2006	June 22, 2006

To qualify, all interested bidders are required to submit the following documents:

a. Original and xerox copy of NFA license (retailing, wholesaling and/or milling).
b. In case of representative, a duly notarized authorization from the owner, partner, chairman or president that he or she is authorized to represent the business entity in the pre-auction, auction proper and all activities thereto.
c. Offer must be accompanied by Bid Bond equivalent to 10% of the volume bidded in the form of Cashier's or Manager's check payable to NFA issued by a reputable commercial bank in Metro Manila.

Interested bidders may secure the terms and conditions starting June 13, 2006 at DMO OCD, 5th Floor from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For any inquiries, please contact Ms. Esple Tecson at tel. nos. 712-1572 and 712-1708.

Bid documents will be available on June 13 and June 20, 2006 to qualified bidders/offerors upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P3,000.00.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality thereof, and to accept only such bids that are advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) **CONRADO DL. IBAÑEZ**
Assistant Administrator and
Chairman, Disposition Committee

(PDI - June 9 & 10, 2006)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Province of Cebu
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE-GOODS AND SERVICES
2nd Floor, Provincial Capitol Building, Cebu Capitol, Cebu City
Tel. Nos. 253-9614; 416-606

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Province of Cebu, through its Bids and Awards Committee-Goods and Services (BAC-GS), invites suppliers / manufacturers / distributors / contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : COMPLETION OF THE CEBU PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
Location : U P. Lahug, Cebu City

Brief Description	Approved Budget for Contract	Contract Duration	Cost of Bid Documents (non-refundable)
To design, supply and install the following: 1. Air Conditioning System	5,682,113.58	60 calendar days upon receipt of notice to proceed	P 6,000.00
2. Cabling & Communication System	181,519.56	30 calendar days upon receipt of notice to proceed	1,500.00
3. Electrical Gear & Switch Panels	1,859,467.40	60 calendar days upon receipt of notice to proceed	2,000.00
4. Rigging System / Draperies Catwalk and main stage	7,042,303.74	90 calendar days upon receipt of notice to proceed	8,000.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two years, with an amount of at least 50% of the project for bidding, and have key personnel, tools and equipment available for the prosecution of the project. The BAC-GS shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statements and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A).

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	June 5, 2006 to June 13, 2006
2. Pre-bid Conference	June 13, 2006, 10:00 A.M.
3. Opening of Bids	June 27, 2006, 10:00 A.M.
4. Bid Evaluation/Post-qualification	June 28, 2006-July 3, 2006
5. Approval of Resolution of Award/ Notice of Award	July 4, 2006

Bid documents will be available only to prospective, bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount as indicated above to the Cash Receipts Division, Office of the Provincial Treasurer.

The pre-bid conference and opening of bids shall be conducted at the BAC Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Provincial Capitol Bldg., Cebu City.

The Province of Cebu assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid and, reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any defect or informality of the bid proposals received and to accept the offer deems most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ROY G. SALUBRE**
Chairman

(PDI - June 2 & 9, 2006)

PANASONIC MANUFACTURING PHILIPPINES CORPORATION
PMPC
ORTIGAS AVENUE EXTENSION, TAYTAY, RIZAL

NOTICE OF STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 2006 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of **PANASONIC MANUFACTURING PHILIPPINES CORPORATION**, will be held at the Human Development Center, Panasonic Manufacturing Philippines Corporation, Ortigas Avenue Extension, Taytay, Rizal on June 16, 2006 at 5:00 P.M.

The Agenda of the meeting is as follows:

1. National Anthem
2. Call To Order
3. Establishment of the Quorum
4. President's Annual Report
5. Approval of Minutes of 2005 Annual Stockholders' Meeting
6. Financial Report
7. Ratification of all acts, resolutions and proceedings of the Board of Directors and Management
8. Ratification of Amendment of Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws to reduce number of directors.
9. Election of New Members of the Board of Directors
10. Appointment of External Auditors
11. Other Business
12. Adjournment

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on May 31, 2006 as the record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to notice and to vote at said Annual Meeting.

Stockholders who will not be able to attend the meeting may designate their respective proxies and send the proxy forms to the Office of the Corporate Secretary not later than June 10, 2006.

MANAGEMENT, HOWEVER, IS NOT SOLICITING YOUR PROXY. Corporate stockholders should attach to their proxies their board resolution designating authorized representative.

Registration starts at 8:00 A.M. on the scheduled meeting. For your convenience in registering your attendance, please present any form of identification such as your Professional I.D., Passport or Driver's License.

Taytay, Rizal, May 10, 2006.

MAMERTO Z. MONDRAGON
Corporate Secretary

(PDI–June 9, 2006)

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation
Energy Complex, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio
Taguig, Metro Manila, Philippines
Telephone No. 893-1320, Local 5291

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID/RE-BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following

5 KVA Uninterruptible Power Supply under FGT 51993
Approved Budget – PHP 2,936,000.00
and
Various Cable Trays and Accessories under GN 516100 / 519001 / 519002
Approved Budget – PHP 2,099,159.00 (RE-BID)

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Cielo B. de Castro** (GN 516100 / 519001 / 519002) and **Harold T. Fontillas** (FGT 51993), starting June 2, 2006 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P300.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **June 14, 2006, 2:00 p.m.** at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply Management Department at the above address, and thereafter, dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than **2:00 p.m. (Supply Management Department Office Wall Clock Time) of June 28, 2006**. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee II

(PDI–June 2 & 9, 2006)

AGUSAN DEL SUR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
San Francisco, Agusan del Sur
Tel. Nos. (085) 343-8455, 242-3280
Telefax No. (085) 839-2275

INVITATION TO BID

The Agusan del Sur Electric Cooperative, Inc., an electric cooperative with Main Office address located at San Francisco, Agusan del Sur, invites all qualified suppliers/bidders to bid for various electrical materials for expansion to seven (7) barangays in its franchise area. Canvass sheets may be secured one (1) week before the bidding schedule from the purchaser/canvasser.

Opening of sealed bids shall be done on June 22, 2006 at the cooperative's Main office, 1:00 in the afternoon in the presence of bidders' representatives, Procurement, Bids, and Awards Committee, and witnesses.

Interested bidders may visit the office or call Engr. Leonilo A. Lolong, PBAC Chair for more information.

(Sgd.) **URSULO E. ANUTA**
Manager

(PDI – June 8 & 9, 2006)

People, Events & Products

PMDO confab set

THE PRINT MEDIA DEALERS ORGANIZATION of the Philippines Inc (PMDO) is the organizing body for the 2nd Newspaper and Magazine Dealers Convention 2006 at the Development Academy of the Philippines set in Tagaytay City June 15 to 17.

Affiliate organizations and members from the Visayas and Mindanao regions, Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog, Northern Luzon, and in Metro Manila have signified their presence for this annual convention.

"Dyaristang Nagkakaisa" is this year's convention theme. Danny Jose, chair of the organizing committee, said the theme is meant to unite all newspaper and magazine dealers for the promotion of all its accredited publications as well as the propagation of readership among the youth and the total elimination of smut tabloids.

Likewise, all major publications of newspapers and magazines are all out to support this activity, and their presence would be a major boost to all newspaper and magazine dealers concerned.

For particulars, call Malou Tevar at 749-9057 or 0906-2151406.

Tuklasan Foundation golf tourney in Wack Wack

THE TUKLASAN FOUNDATION WILL BE holding the Tuklasan Silver Cup Golf Tournament today at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club in Mandaluyong City.

Tuklasan is a marriage encounter group celebrating its 25th year this month, led by Tony-Rita del Rosario and Jerry-Nette Dacayo. The event kicks-off Tuklasan's year-long anniversary celebration.

"This is an opportunity for our Tuklasan members who are golf aficionados to take a break and enjoy a round of golf," Tuklasan chair Rev. Fr. Jess Fernandez SJ said.

Tuklasan Silver Cup Golf Tournament is supported by Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Integrated Contractor and Plumbing Works Inc, Eastgate Properties Holdings Inc, Martinez Carriers Corp Inc, JDC Propac Inc, Ohtsuka Polytech Properties Inc, American Technological Industries Corp, Dee Concrete Inc, Premier Ready Mix Inc, Union Trading, H & WB, Reyes Francisco & Associates Law Office, Acto Plumbing, Asian Electrosystem Corp, Voltage Electric, Unistrong Painting, Alfbrika Aluminum, St. Matthew's Publishing, Datem Construction, RB Poblete Electrical Services, Eicor Inc, Will Decena Construction, Alpha Cool, 4E, Mon Peralejo and San Miguel Corp.

KBP, PCIJ train broadcast journalists

THE KAPISANAN NG MGA BRODKASTER sa Pilipinas (KBP) and the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ) have undertaken a series of seminar-workshops to improve the skills of broadcast journalists, increase their awareness of ethical standards, and show them how to deal with threats.

Seventy-nine broadcast journalists from Mindanao have attended the seminar-workshops on Basic Journalism and Safety Training conducted in February through March this year in Davao, Cagayan de Oro, and Zamboanga City. The seminar participants are from KBP-member radio stations in Davao City, Davao del Norte and Davao Oriental provinces, General Santos, Koronadal, Cotabato, Kidapawan, Butuan, Bukidnon, Cagayan De Oro, Surigao del Norte, Iligan, Marawi, and Ozamis.

The speakers and resource persons for the seminar were led by professor Luis Teodoro and Rose Feliciano of the UP College of Mass Communications (Feliciano is also a director of the KBP. Standards Authority); Yvonne Chua, Luz Rimban, and Alecks Pabico of PCIJ, and Mel Estonilo as trainor.

Among the topics of the seminar were "Journalism & Society: The Concept of News," "Finding Information", "Internet Basics", "The Art of Interview (with role playing)", "Writing Radio News", "News Analysis & Commentary / Media & Governance", "Basic Safety Training", and "Ethical Standards for Journalists".

The KBP and PCIJ also organized a seminar-workshop on the production of radio news features in May, this time for broadcasters in Luzon.

CAPITOL MEDICAL CENTER HOLDS SYMPOSIUM
The Capitol Medical Center Department of Pediatrics will hold its 11th Symposium titled 'Adult Diseases in the Young' on June 14 from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 12th Floor Auditorium, CMCV. This is in conjunction with Capitol Medical Center's 36th anniversary. Topics will include metabolic syndrome, stroke in the young, skin problems in the young and common pediatric gynecologic problems. Shown is the CMC Department of Pediatrics team.

Me and my Dad at Festival Supermall

FESTIVAL SUPERMALL GOES ALL OUT FOR fathers this month of June. Families can mark precious moments with dad with a series of fun-filled activities lined up especially for them.

On June 10, fathers and their children will flaunt their vocal talents at Festival Supermall's singing contest. The contest is open to all bonafide father and son/daughter pairs. They must submit a photocopy of their birth certificates plus two valid IDs for proof of blood relations. Only 10 father and son/daughter pairs who have passed the elimination rounds can qualify for the contest proper.

But that's not all. Dads and their daughters can grace the dance floor at the Father and Daughter Ballroom Dancing Competition on June 11. Similar to the singing contest, the event is open to all bonafide father and daughter pairs. Contestants must submit a photocopy of their birth certificates, two valid IDs for proof of blood relations and the ballroom format of choice, which should not exceed five minutes. Only 10 father and daughter pairs who have passed eliminations can compete at the actual event.

For both contests, third-placers will receive P5,000 worth of cash and gift certificates, while second-placers win P7,000 cash plus gift certificates. The grand prize winners get to bring home P7,000 cash with P3,000 worth of gift certificates plus a P5,000 scholarship grant from Informatics for a total of P15,000 worth of cash and prizes.

Finally, on June 18, all fathers are entitled to free treats at the Chefs and Food Junction at the third level.

For details, call 850-3514. Festival Supermall is located at the Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

CHORUS PHILIPPINES AT PACO PARK PRESENTS
Chorus Philippines celebrates the color and diversity of Philippine culture as it brings well-loved folk songs and patriotic music in a special concert titled 'Philippine Portraits' at Paco Park Presents today, 6 p.m., in celebration of the country's 108th Independence Day. The show features National Artist Lucrecia Kasilag's 'Purihin si Yahweh', new choral arrangements of well-loved folk tunes, and stirring patriotic songs. Considered one of the best emerging chamber choirs, Chorus Philippines is composed of church choristers, nurses, young professionals and music students brought together by the passion for choral music. It is currently recording its first CD album of Filipino folk and contemporary songs arranged by choirmaster Joy T. Nilo. Paco Park is at San Marcelino corner Padre Faura Streets, Paco, Manila. Admission is free. Call 0920-9610320 for inquiries.

IrvinePlace

at Filinvest Homes East

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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **AJMR PORT SERVICES CORPORATION** is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as Bulk Handling and Specialized Transport Facilities – Container Yard and Cold Storage Facility Operator on a Non-Pioneer Status with capacity of 462,000 MT per year on Bulk Handling and 596,824 MT per year on Cold Storage Facility with project/plant site located at AJMR Port Complex, Km. 20, Tibungco, Davao City.

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) **RUDY B. CAÑA**
Director
Project Evaluation and
Registration Department

(PDI - June 9, 2006)

TransCo
Republic of the Philippines
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of Distance Relays

[Reference No.: PB060309-EL0029]

1. The *National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region (TRANSCO-HO)*, through the *CY2006 Corporate Budget approved by the TRANSCO Board*, intends to apply the sum of ***Php 9,960,000.00*** being the Total Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contractor for the **Supply and Delivery of Distance Relays.** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The *TRANSCO-HO* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for Distance Relays. Delivery of the GOODS is required *within sixty (60) calendar days from receipt of approved Purchase Order.* The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders, starting June 2, 2006 to July 6, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of ***Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00)***. The method of payment will be CASH. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. The *TRANSCO-HO* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on June 23, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at same address below. Requests for clarifications on the bid documents should be submitted before the Pre-Bid Conference.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 2:00 p.m. of July 7, 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following form and amount:

Form of Security	Amount
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit (1% of ABC)	Php 99,600.00
2. Bank guarantee (1.5% of ABC)	Php 149,400.00
3. Surety bond (2.5% of ABC)	Php 249,000.00
4. Foreign government guarantee (100% of ABC)	Php 9,960,000.00

or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

7. Bid opening shall be on July 7, 2006 / 2:00 p.m. at the *Admin Conference Room, same address below.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
8. The *National Transmission Corporation* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region
Mr. Armando N. Ochoa, BAC Chairman
MMD Office, G/F TransCo Main Bldg.
Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road
Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No.: (632) 981-2235 / Fax No. (632) 922-8432
Website: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) **ARMANDO N. OCHOA**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - June 2 & 9, 2006)

DAVAO CITY WATER DISTRICT
J.P. Laurel Ave., Davao City
Tel. #221-9400

INVITATION FOR BEST OFFER

1. The Davao City Water District, through the Approved Budget for 2006 intends to apply the sum of **P750,000.00** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under contract as listed below. Offer received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening of bid/offer.
2. The Davao City Water District now invites Bids / offer for the Supply of One (1) unit 2nd hand Water Tanker intended for the hauling of water for human consumption with the following descriptions:

   Loading Capacity: 14 cu. Meter
   Aluminum Tank,
   Isuzu engine
   6 cylinder
   8 wheelers and a good running conditions
3. The award shall be given to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bid. However the unit is subject for the inspection of the DCWD authorized representative as part of the evaluation procedure before the award given to the LCRB.
4. Please attach picture and copy of latest registration certificate.
5. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Davao City Water District and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
6. Bid opening shall be at the DCWD BAC-A Secretariat Office, J.P. Laurel Ave., Bajada, Davao City on **June 23, 2006 @ 9:00 A.M.**

   Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below:
7. The *Davao City Water District* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Davao City Water District
BAC-A
J.P. Laurel Ave., Bajada, Davao City
Tel. No. : 221-9400 (8000)
E-mail add : dcwd@davao-water.gov.ph
Fax No. : 224-5392
Website : www.davao.water.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **VIRGINIA S. MARIMON**
BAC-A Chairperson

(PDI–June 2 & 9, 2006)

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on June 21, 2006, 2:00 p.m., 12th Floor, Suite 4, Executive Lounge of the DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties on **CASH BASIS:**

CODE NO.	DESCRIPTION	AREA (sq.m.)	LOCATION		Minimum Bid
REAL ESTATE METRO MANILA					
AM-RT-127	House and lot (TCT T-100505)	370	No. 24, Tulip Road, Pilar Village, Almanza, Las Piñas City	P	2,454,300.00
CAVITE					
AM-FD-128	House and lot (TCT T-1143334)	42	Road Lot 8, Regal Homes, Brgy. Alapan I, Imus	P	167,600.00
CEBU					
AM-DE-129	House and lot (TD No. 15387)	449	Poblacion, Compostela	P	797,000.00
BOG-001	Residential/commercial lot (TCT 153689) with residential/ apartment bldg. & imp.	1,045	General Echavez St., Brgy. Zapatera, Cebu City	P	8,500,000.00
DAVAO					
AM-RT-130	3 contiguous residential lots (TCT Nos. T-369591, T-369590 & T-369589) with bldgs.	2,235	Tacunan Road, Catalunan Grande, Davao City	P	5,125,000.00
GENERAL SANTOS					
AM-DE-131	Residential lot (TCT No.T-99816) with residential bldgs.	400	Paralejas Subdivision, City Heights, General Santos City	P	815,900.00
LAGUNA					
STR-ERM	10 individually titled lot (TCT Nos. T-344369, T-344370, T-344371, T-344372, T-344373, T-344374, T-344375, T-344376 (road lot), T-342544, T-342545) being utilized as resort compound consisting of a resort hotel, an executive house / residence with attic, 2-storey reception / seminar hall, ten (10) units family cottages, a chapel, twenty (20) units picnic huts, a gazebo, comfort rooms, swimming pools, landscaping/ waterscaping, windmill, restaurant, guard house, walkway/pathway, parking lot, and perimeter fence.	10,000	Brgy. Bagong Kalsada, Calamba City	P	56,102,400.00
(CHATTELS - Sale on "as is where is basis")					
AM-PY-132	One (1) lot coconut oil processing equipment		Brgy. Banao, Guinobatan, Albay	P	1,408,400.00

BIDDERS ARE REMINDED:

1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding;
2. To submit in DBP's official bid form available at the AMD-Acquired Assets, Ground Floor, DBP Head Office during office hours; and
3. To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commences. The sale shall be subject to other terms and conditions which may be imposed by the Bank.

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers: 892-1566/893-7172 or 818-9511 local 2158/2159 for Code starting with AM, (049) 534-2820 to 21 for STR and 818-9511 loc. 1707.

ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI – June 9 & 10, 2006)

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OBITUARIES

Death Notice

MONICA LAROSA LAYLO

Died in the Grace of our Lord on June 2, 2006 at the age of 81.

Her body lies in state at the family residence in Sitio Masagana, Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

Interment will be on June 10, 2006 at Holy Family Memorial, Mamatid, Cabuyao, Laguna.

Her family request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

MARIANITA A. MORA

Died in the Grace of our Lord on June 6, 2006 at the age of 72.

Her body lies in state at Ambassador Memorial Chappel , A. Mabini cor. C3 Road , Kalookan City.

Interment will be on Saturday , June 10, 2006 at 3:00 p.m. at Our Lourdes Memorial Park, Letre , Malabon City.

ADELAIDA M. CANLAS

Died in the Grace of our Lord on June 8, 2006 at the age of 95.

Her body lies in state at family residence at Mapalad, Arayat, Pampanga.

Interment will be on Sunday, June 11, 2006 at 8 a.m.. at Cabiao Cemetery.

> *"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, and I have kept the faith."*
> 2 Timothy 4

Engr. Justo R. Millado

of Balili, Palanginan, Iba, Zambales

Peacefully joined our Creator on June 2, 2006, at the age of 71.

His bereaved wife **Treping**; children **Robert** and **Matet**, **Carmen** and **Albert**, **Unding** and **Ed**; grandchildren **Kitboy**, **Paolo**, **An-An**, **Nonoy** and **Patring**; brothers, sisters and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies at the family residence at Balili, Palanginan, Iba, Zambales.

Interment will be on June 10, 2006, at the Iba Municipal Cemetery, after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at St. Augustine Cathedral.

Veronica Torres Sarenas

of Davao City
(Beloved wife of **Raul B. Sarenas** †)

has peacefully joined her Creator on June 7, 2006 at the age of 84.

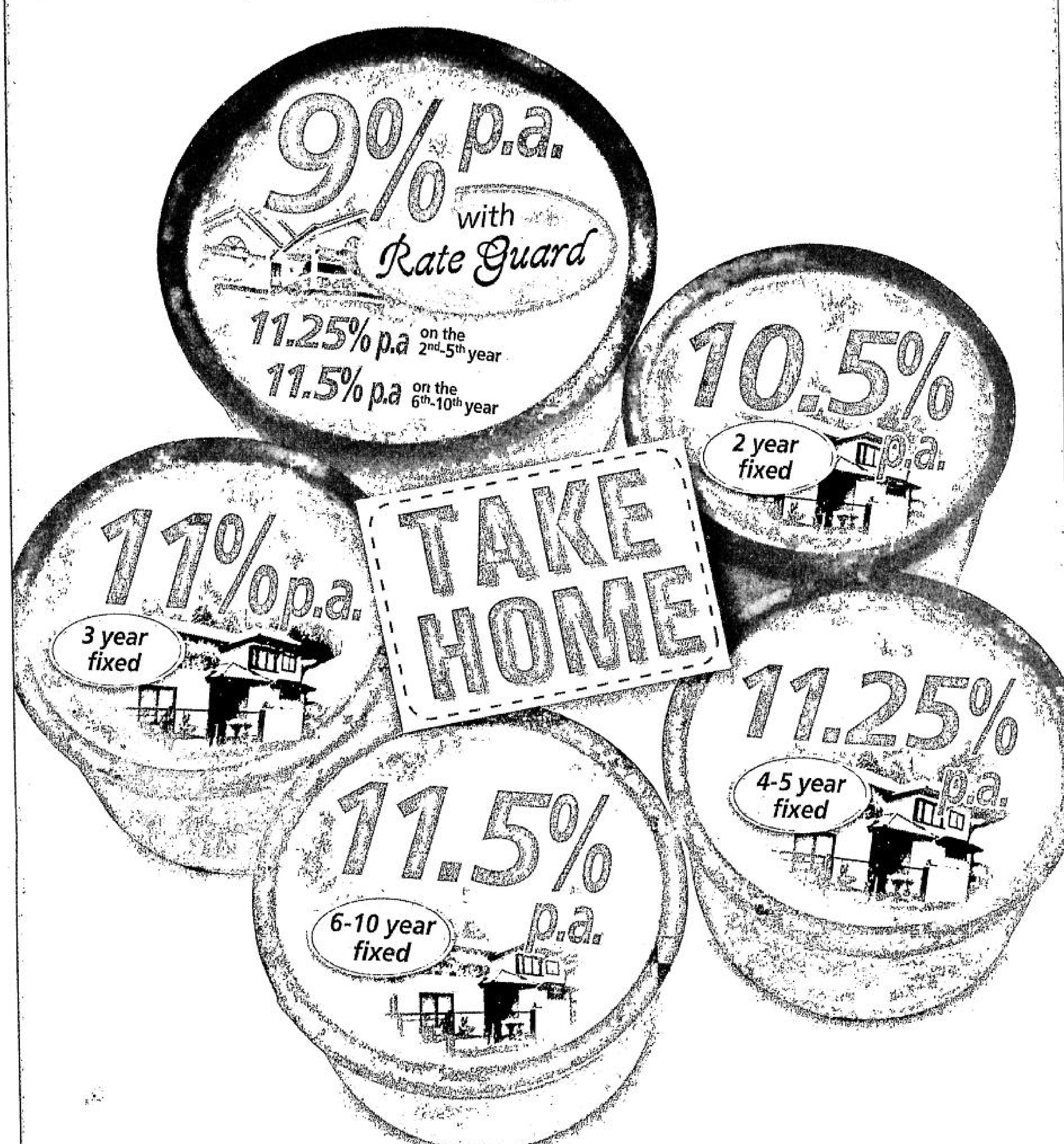
Her loving children: **Jun**, **Lilah** & **Riz**, **Vita**, **Marte** & **Liza**, **Francy** & **Chris**, grandchildren: **Del**, **Gabbie**, **Jomik**, **Mica**, **Anne** and **Kai**, her brothers & sisters, in-laws, nephews and nieces, request prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

She lies in state at Chapel B, Christ the King, Green Meadows, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, June 11, 2006 at the Holy Gardens Memorial Park, Manila East Road, Taytay, Rizal after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

More Classified Ads: **UNDP's Request for Proposal** and **LGU-Kalilangan Bukidnon's Invitation to Bid** on A 19

Interest Rate Delights



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New oil firms up take in Q1

By Abigail L. Ho

NEW OIL PLAYERS ARE STARTING TO GAIN on the so-called "Big 3" of the oil industry as they increased their combined share of the petroleum distribution market in the first quarter this year to 16.1 percent from 14.2 percent last year.

As of end-March, Petron Corp. remained the leader with a 38.1-percent share of the pie, followed by Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. with 30.8 percent, shedding 1.2 percentage points from its January-March 2005 share of 32 percent.

Chevron Philippines Inc., through its Caltex brand, also lost 0.3 percentage points as of end-March to close the quarter with a 15-percent share of the pie.

In terms of retail fuel sales, or fuel sold at the pump, new players continued to play catch up with their bigger counterparts, accounting for 16.1 percent of the market in the first quarter.

Petron held a commanding 33.4-percent share, followed by Shell with 31.8 percent and Chevron with 18.7 percent.

The new players came within 0.2 percentage points of the No. 3 position in February when they registered a combined retail fuel market share of 18.2 percent, behind Chevron's 18.4 percent.

The liquefied petroleum gas market was a different story as players other than the so-called "Big 3" cornered the biggest slice of the market.

Other players accounted for 44.1 percent of the LPG pie as of end-March.

Petron followed with 28.2 percent, Shell with 21.7 percent and Chevron with 5.9 percent.

In terms of volume, the domestic oil industry is expected to contract by another 5-10 percent this year, following last year's 10-percent decline, according to Shell country chair Edgar Chua.

According to data from the Department of Energy, domestic sales in 2005 dropped to 109 million barrels from 118 million barrels the year before.

The first four to five months of the year showed a similar trend, Chua said, mainly due to high pump prices.

Prices in the international and domestic markets were likely to stay high in the next two to three years, he said.

UnionBank to buy rest of iBank shares

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

UNION BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES IS EXpected to soon make an offer to buy the remaining shares in International Exchange Bank held by minority shareholders.

This developed after Securities and Exchange Commission Secretary Gerard Lukban said that UnionBank was not exempted from the general tender offer rule, which requires an investor that has acquired at least 35 percent of a company to buy out the minority shareholders at the same terms.

Lukban, however, said that UnionBank would be allowed to proceed with the acquisition of the majority shares before making a tender offer as it already has 98.8 percent of iBank.

UnionBank was thus exempted from a provision of the Securities Regulation Code that requires a firm to first make a tender offer before finalizing the sale of shares.

UnionBank recently acquired 98.8 percent of iBank for P13.4 billion from iBank shareholders led by JTKC Equities Inc., iVantage Corp., Razon Industries Inc. and Greenhillls Property Ventures.

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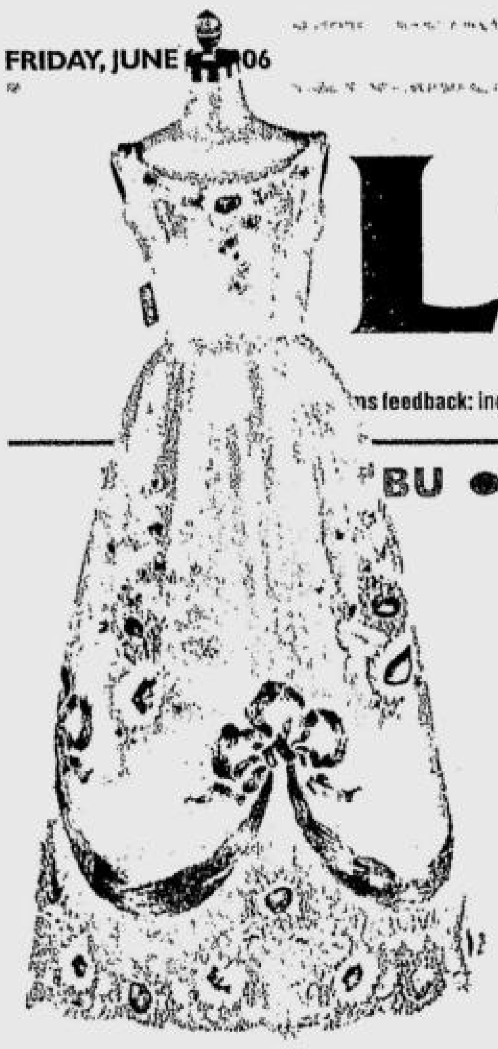

LIFESTYLE

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

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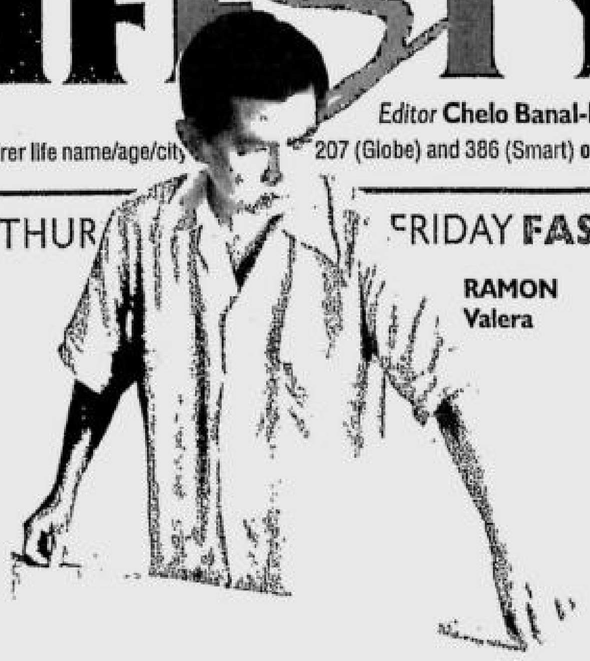
[illegible]BU • THUR[illegible] FRIDAY **FASHION & BEAUTY**



RAMON Valera

PHOTOS FROM "VALERA: CADA TRAJE ES UNA OBRA MAESTRA," PUBLISHED BY TANTOCO-RUSTIA FOUNDATION

Beyond fashion, the National Artist Awardee represents the Filipino's pursuit of excellence in a society whose standards are now dictated by marketing and media hype

VALERA gown custom-made for Zenaida Rustia Tantoco

Why Valera?

WHY NOT? EVEN IN A FIERCELY competitive and intrigue-ridden fashion scene, the question shouldn't be hard to answer.

For the first time, fashion design is a subcategory (under architecture and design) in the National Artists Awards, and a Filipino couturier, **Ramon Valera**, among the awardees.

It's a watershed year for Philippine fashion design, which can't seem to ever take off.

In the commemorative book on the 2006 National Artist Awards, we wrote on the significance of the choice of Valera, a designer, unfortunately, we didn't have the privilege to cover or meet. (He died in 1972.) Allow us to excerpt:

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

"The contribution of Ramon Valera to Philippine arts and culture and society as a whole went beyond fashion. This became evident not so much in his lifetime, as today, 34 years after his death. That a Filipino's achievement resonates across generations is the fair measure of the validity of this National Artist Award.

"Where does the continuing impact of Valera lie? Beyond his seminal innovation on the terno, it lies in the tradition of excellence his works have come to represent. It wasn't only his sheer artistry that today's generation stands to learn from, it was how he pursued excellence in his art, and how his art—from the design to the minutest ornamentation—displayed rigor and discipline.

"All this becomes critical example for today's young society that is becoming oblivious to the pursuit of excellence, a society whose standards of achievement rest on marketing and mass media hype.

"Valera toiled away from the scrutiny of mass media—which did not exist in his time as we experience it today—and into the confines of his atelier. At the end of the day, it was the exacting standards he set for himself that he sought to reach.

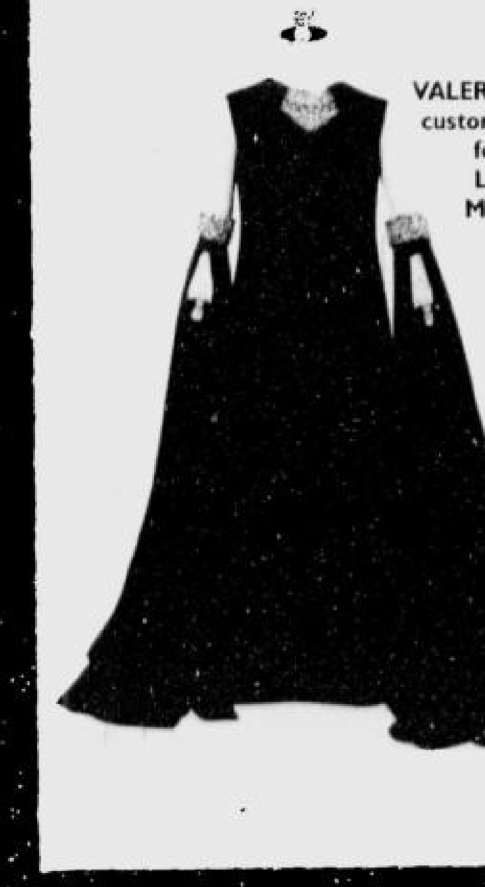
"Valera was and—now with this Award—is proof that the Filipino can pursue excellence and, in the process, shape his society.

"Valera turned his craft into an art that later gave the Philippines its visual icon to the world—the terno.

"In the early '40s Valera produced a single piece of clothing from a four-piece ensemble consisting of a blouse, skirt, overskirt and long scarf. He unified the *baro't saya* into a single dress with exaggerated bell sleeves, cinched at the waist, grazing the ankle, and zipped up at the back. Using zipper in place of hooks was already a radical change. Dropping the *panuelo* became an even bigger shock.

"Even today we see designers turning a Valera gown or terno inside-out to study its construction, beadwork, appliqué or copy its draping.

WHY/ C3



VALERA gown custom-made for Elvira Ledesma Manahan, 1967

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Aveo Special Ed 1.5 M/T	635 000	69 000	50,392	34,630	26,777	19,056	15,766	13,302	7,610
Aveo Special Ed. 1.5 A/T	675,000	79,000	53,062	36 361	28,196	20,066	16,076	14,007	8,089
Optra 1.6 L A/T	713 000	89 000	56 555	38 069	29 521	21 009	16 820	14,665	8,544
Optra 1.6 LS M/T	738 000	89 000	57 781	39 694	30,704	21 850	17,504	15 25[illegible]	8,844
Optra 1.6 LS A/T	783 000	89 000	61 787	42 339	32 833	23 366	18 718	16 31[illegible]	9,383
Optra Special Ed. 1.6 A/T	795,000	99 000	61 965	42,461	32 927	23,433	18,772	16,357	9,527
Optra Wagon 1.6 M/T	808,000	99,000	63 123	43,764	33,642	23,871	19,123	16,663	9,683
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PHILIPPINE Tatler publisher Irene Martel Francisco with Moet-Hennessy's Philippine chief representative Olga Azarcon and Asia-Pacific financial manager Vincent Chan

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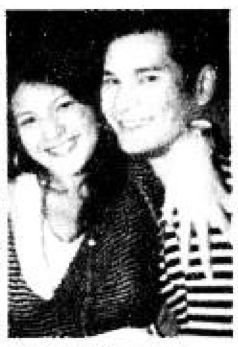
EXOTIC Maureen Santiago, grand emcee Johnny Litton and young taipan Emil Yap III

MOI, with world travelers Tina Torres C. and husband Vince Carlos

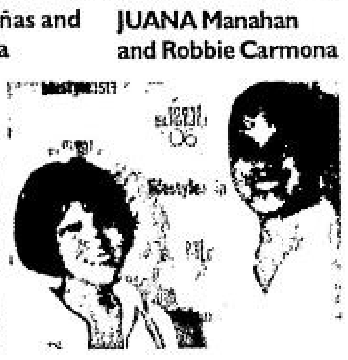
JOJO and Henry Zabarte with popular EJ Litton

TAMARA de Guzman, Juana Manahan and RJ Ledesma

VON Valdepeñas and Chichi Atienza



JUANA Manahan and Robbie Carmona



MANIKA Nubla Yujuico and Miguel Antonio "Moya" Villavicencio Aranaz

IT DEFINITELY WAS THE BUBBLIEST ticket in town. All roads led to the elegant Red Restaurant at the busy-busy Shangri-La Hotel Makati, *palanggas*.

The *trés, trés* exclusive Veuve Cliquot Ponsardin (VCP) exquisite dinner at the Red was unique. It featured one of the best champagnes in the world—the Veuve Cliquot Ponsardin, of course, dahlings.

Après circulating among the select 25 invitees during cocktails, we moved to our designated tables for the eight-course sit-down dinner excellently prepared by the hotel's world-class chef.

The hard-to-beat emcee was **Johnny Litton**, *naturellement*. He introduced the hotshots of VCP, then the invitees, giving a brief biography of each.

During the aperitif, we got a condensed version of Cliquot's interesting history.

The rich bubbly is acknowledged as the No. 2 champagne in the globe. Its sparkling, smooth spirit is conceded to be the most exclusive available.

The company was founded in 1771 by an exceptionally brilliant woman named Madame **Veuve Cliquot**, *naturellement*. She ran the business alone until her heirs took over.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

At present, it ships an awesome 85 percent of its produce outside France. In 1987, it became part of the leading international group in luxury products, LVMH.

During each course, this gathering of discerning individuals was educated on the different types of Cliquot, as well as champagne-making, by Moet-Hennessy's hottest executives.

They included chief Philippine representative, cyber-smart **Olga Azarcon**; Asia Pacific managing director, tall, distinguished **Mark Bedingham**; Asia Pacific regional director, *trés charmant* **Paul Skipworth**; Wine Estates and Veuve Cliquot group regional marketing director, the dashing French gentleman, **Bruno Yvon**; and Asia-Pacific financial manager, Singapore-based **Vincent Chan**, who jetted in just for this fantastic night that is still being talked about as the grand champagne dinner to end all dinners, dahlings.

To see and be seen

My next stop was the favorite watering hole of the crowd that knows it's the best place to see and be seen in—Nuvo Bar and Resto in Greenbelt 2, *palanggas*.

Well, that night was no exception. Nuvo was packed elbow to elbow with Manille's hot glitterati as Lifestyle Asia hosted one great party for its annual Eligible List.

Overflowing Rene Barbier, Barcino wines, Absolut Vodka and champagne got the invitees rocking and rolling to the hot club music mixed by top DJ **Anton Ramos**.

Not a single seat or table was empty as Manille's creamiest of the cream filled the veranda of Nuvo. It took a good 15 minutes for Lifestyle Asia's hotshot gals, editor in chief **Sari Yap** and VP and creative director of Mega Magazine and Publication, vivacious **Lorraine Belmonte**, and their guests to have a table set up for them.

People-watching were star-maker **Joji Dingcong**; gorgeous bag designer **Amina Aranaz-Alunan**; MTV VJ **John Joe**; **Xeng Zulueta**; Rep. **Mark Leviste**; fun couple **Liza Ilarde** and **Elbert Cuenca**; BMW's hot-hot **Lito Herman**, with his wife, adorable **Ditas**; Cavite Mayor **Dino Reyes**; **Puey Quiñones**; Manual editor in chief **RJ Ledesma**; and *moi, natch*!

The eligibles included some of today's young hot talents like **Alexis Alunan**; **Tessa Dragon**; **Manika Nubla Yujuico**; **Miguel Antonio Aranaz**; **Xavier Dominguez**; **Nicole Jacinto**; **Chichi Atienza**; **Borgy Manotoc**, with **Ornusa Cadness**; **Angel See**; **Karina Mahbubani**; **Ian Angelo King**; businessman **Paolo Cabalfin** and Sarangani Gov. **Miguel Dominguez**.

MOET-HENNESSY Wine Estates and Veuve Cliquot Group Regional marketing director, dashing Bruno Yvon; ultra-glam Vicky Zubiri; and Moet-Hennessy Asia-Pacific managing director Mark Bedingham

BMW'S main man, Dr. Goerg Breuer

Hey, watch out as these young, cool minds shake the town in the coming years, *palanggas*.

Naturellement, the Most Eligible 2006 list was featured in Lifestyle Asia magazine.

The fab bash was sponsored by Lifestyle Asia, a publication of Mega Magazine and Publications Inc. MMPI/The Mega Group, Nokia, Volvo and 92.3 Joey.

Toys for big boys

Kia Motors has managed some pretty incredible growth globally in recent years, *palanggas*. This success can be attributed to its unveiling loads of new toys for big boys featuring state-of-the-art technologies and cutting-edge design.

It is showcased by Columbian Autocar Corporation (CAC), manufacturer and distributor of Kia Motors in the Philippines, with 21 top dealers spread over Manille, the rest of Luzon, and in Visayas and Mindanao. It just inaugurated EBR 4-Wheel Drive in Ormoc City. Five more will be added before the year ends.

"The Power to Surprise" is Kia's new catch phrase. "Enabling someone to have a car, is what it's all about," said Kia's hotshot **Ernie Rizzari** during the blessing of the strategically located Kia showroom on Lilia Avenue, Cogon, Ormoc City.

The biggest surprise was the unveiling of Kia's latest pride, the new sleek Rio sedan and hatchback variant, *naturellement*.

Earlier in the day, Ernie Pizzari hosted the invitational golf tournament at the Leyte Golf Club, with some of the biggest names in Ormoc, together with other Kia dealers from Manille and other provinces.

Hey, *palanggas*, for those who don't think they can have a cool-looking, economical, reliable new car on a modest budget, Kia has the answer. "One need look no further," said CAC president **Felix J. Mabilog Jr.**

SILK Cocoon's internationally renowned couturier, Jeannie Goulbourn

YOUNG mover and shaker Heidi Ng and young patron of the arts Patrick Reyno

CHERYL Tiu

TOURNAMENT winner Dr. Joerg Breuer of BMW Phil. gets his trophy from Ernie B. Rizarri

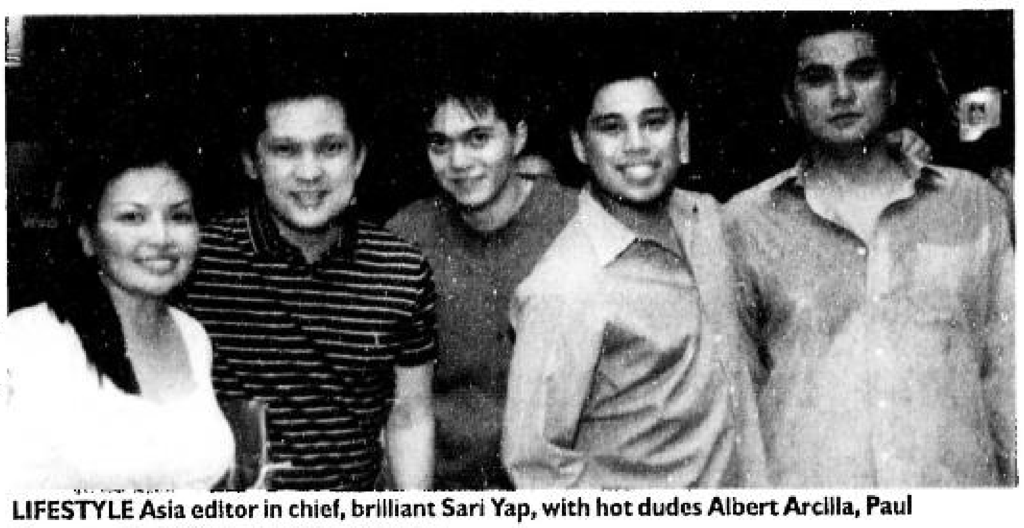
KIA Cebu dealer Markane C. Goho and Felix Mabilog Jr. of Columbian Autocar Corp.

KIA men: Kenny Kim (third from left), regional headquarters; Mark de Joya, Quezon Avenue; Chut Velasquez, CAC; Bobby Ang, Davao; AJ Rizarri, Ormoc; and Nico Sebastian, Novaliches

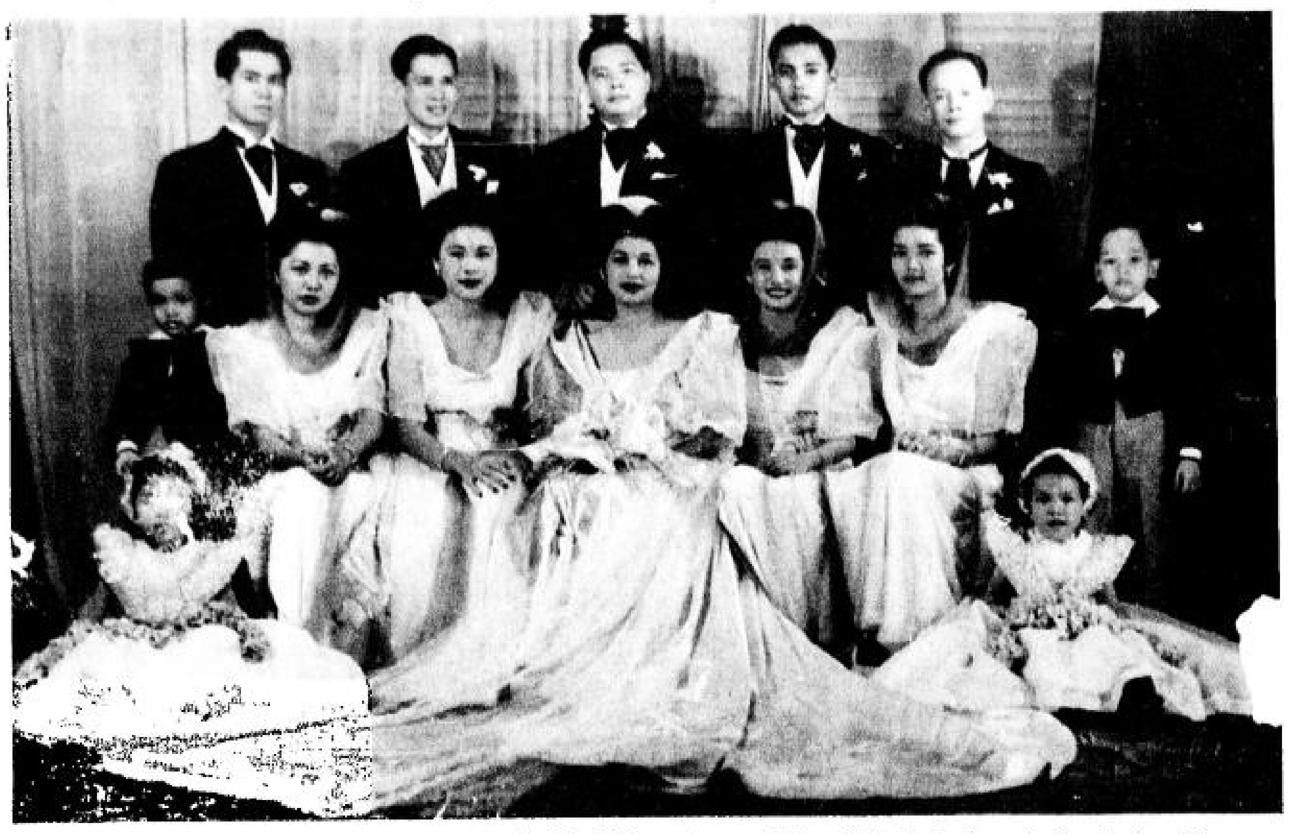
PROUD of their Kia dealership: The Rizarri *famille* Andrew, AJ and Monic, and parents Daya and Ernie Rizzari

PRINCESS Co, Annabelle Tuazon, Monette Garcia, Anthony Garcia and Angel See

RIBBON-CUTTING. Daya Rizarri, Felix J. Mabilog Jr. and Chito Santos



LIFESTYLE Asia editor in chief, brilliant Sari Yap, with hot dudes Albert Arcilla, Paul Chunaco, Carlo Ortiz and Max Chunaco



VALERA (standing, leftmost) was best man in the '40s high-society wedding of Don Luis Araneta (center) and Emma Benitez (seated, center). The bride wore a Valera *baro't saya* with *panuelo*.

Why Valera?

From page C1

"Valera couldn't have found a better backdrop for his artistry than the '40s and the '50s, when the Philippines was moving on from the destruction wrought by war, to prosperity—or the trappings of it.

"Such political economic structure allowed the elite its glamour and glitz. They partied!

"Balls—from the Kahirup of the Negrenses to the Mancomunidad of the Kapampangans—were the high points of the social calendar.

"Valera was in an environment that could only stimulate his art. Imported fabrics—from silk to organza to alaskin—came in unimpeded, while indigenous materials such as *piña*, *jusi* and *sinamay* were readily available. The imported ornaments were also aplenty—beads, sequins, crystals. To this day we see fashion designers drool as they run their hands over the beadwork and sequin ornamentation of a Valera terno, and wish they had access to such materials.

"Valera and his terno came at the crossroads of Philippine history itself.

"His father's family hailed from Abra, rather well-off. Valera studied at La Salle and dropped out from commerce at Far Eastern University.

"What easily set Valera apart from the couturiers of early postwar years, when haute couture was gaining ground, was his ability to keep up with the trends and the times. With his experimentation, he ushered the terno into the modern times by reworking its silhouette and treatment.

"Stripped of its butterfly sleeves, it became a western evening gown. His was a fearless innovation—he could turn the skirt into a pouf or ball gown. According to an avid fan of Valera, **Joey Panlilio** (executive director of Museo De La Salle at De La Salle University, Cavite), Valera even designed a mid-rib terno—a top and skirt, the middle section left bare.

"In his hands, the terno evolved from a costume to a classic ensemble using Western influences while retaining its Filipino identity.

"Panlilio remembers the afternoons he'd pick up his grandmother, **Luz Sarmiento Panlilio**, from fittings at Valera's atelier in Mayon, Quezon City. The atelier was decked out in mauve. At the center of the room was a raised platform—a dais—where the woman stood during her fitting, so Valera could see for himself the fall of the fabric, if the hemline skimmed the floor just right. Such was the designer's painstaking attention to detail and commitment to perfection.

"Valera died in September 1972, at 60.

"That marked only the beginning of his impact on society. Succeeding generations of fashion designers, from **Joe Salazar** to the upcoming ones, drew inspiration from Valera's art, including the use of unconventional material (i.e. ostrich feathers).

"In his lifetime, Valera reached the elite. In death, with this award, Valera becomes a reminder that a Filipino is capable of the pursuit of excellence."

E-mail the author at thelma_ssanjuan@abs.pinoycentral.com

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What is renal failure and its symptoms?

Renal failure is characterized by an increase in creatinine and nitrogenous waste products in the blood due to the inability of the kidney to filter the blood and also the inability to regulate the fluid and electrolyte balance in the body. It can be classified as either acute or chronic. "Acute" suggests short term injury which is usually reversible but some may also lead to a chronic stage. While "chronic" suggests prolonged insult which may lead to end stage renal disease. Children with ARF (acute renal failure) caused by hypoxic/ischemic insults, nephritis and hemolytic uremic syndrome (which are the most common causes of ARF in children) are more likely to demonstrate decreased urine output (output of less than 400 ml in 24 hours), while other causes like drugs nephropathies, uric acid nephropathy etc. are more likely to have ARF but with normal urine output. Patients may also manifest with vomiting, headache, seizure, hypertension and cardiac arrythmias due to high serum levels of potassium. Chronic renal failure may have the same symptoms but patient may have anemia and edema. The prognosis of ARF depends highly on the underlying cause of ARF.

This week's answer to our feature question was provided by our medical service provider from MetroManila, Dr. Esther Uy Tan. She specializes in Pediatric Nephrology. Dra. Tan obtained her medicine degree from FEU-NRMF in 1994. She took her residency trainig for Pediatrics at Capitol Medical Center in 1998 and later completed her fellowship training for Pediatric Nephrology at National Kidney & Transplant Institute in 2002. She is member of the Philippine Medical Association and a diplomate of the Philippine Pediatric Society, Philippine Society of Nephrology and Pediatric Nephrology Society of the Philippines. MEDICard members may visit her for consultation services at Capitol Medical Center, Mondays thru Saturdays except Tuesdays from 9am-12noon.

Nicky

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.

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	Names	*Prizes*
1st	*Rogelio A. Franco*	*Health Plan worth P15,000 plus cash prize of P10,000*
2nd	*Randell A. Saba*	*Health Plan worth P10,000 plus cash prize of P 5,000*
3rd	*Efren C. Aguirre*	*Health Plan worth P 7,000 plus cash prize of P 3,000*

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AMERICAN EXPRESS PESO PLATINUM Card members double their reward points when they buy at Store Specialists Inc. (SSI) shops until the end of June. SSI stores include Anne Klein, Bally, Burberry, Charriol, DKNY, Episode, Gucci, Prada and Salvatore Ferragamo. American Express gives cardholders one point for every P45 spent and doubles those points within certain periods.

EXHIBIT. Filipinas Heritage Library and Sony Ericsson present "My Phone, My Camera: A Camera Phone Photography Workshop," on June 10, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Filipinas Heritage Library, Makati Avenue, Ayala Triangle, Makati City. As a culminating activity, a graduation exhibit will be mounted in Greenbelt 3 Lobby after the workshop. The Sony Ericsson K750i camera phone is in store for the participant with the best photograph for the workshop/exhibit. Workshop fee is P1,200 with Sony Ericsson camera users entitled to a 50-percent discount. To register, call 8921801, e-mail events@filipinaslibrary.org.ph, or visit www.filipinaslibrary.org.ph.

MARKET. Barangay San Lorenzo in Makati presents Sunday Market dubbed "Back to Basic," June 11, located between the streets of Gamboa and Legazpi. BSL Sunday Market is open every Sunday, 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. For its anniversary, it will be extended until 4 p.m.

BASIC COURSE. Edsa Garden House is offering a basic flower-arranging workshop June 10 (10 a.m.-5 p.m.) and 11 (2 p.m.-5 p.m.). Edsa Garden House is at the Manila Seedling Bank, Quezon Avenue cor. Edsa, Quezon City. Seminar fee is P2,000, covering materials for hands-on training, as well as snacks. Resource persons are Pearl Banaag, vice president of World Flower Council Philippines and member of World Flower Council International; and Nonito Gallo, first winner of the Rachy Cuna Cup for flower arrangement. Call 9270510 or 9293189.

GLOBAL MAG. Pinoy Global Access brings news and other new developments in the country to overseas Filipinos. The magazine, published by Merk Media, Inc., will be launched June 9 in San Francisco, USA, at the Social Hall in the Philippine Center Building. The launch will feature "Pinoy Crush," an exhibit by Norbert Sacro, a San Francisco-based Filipino photojournalist, as well as a special performance by Richard Merk and musician Toti Fuentes. Call 7501481 to 82 and or e-mail pinoyglobalaccess@gmail.com.

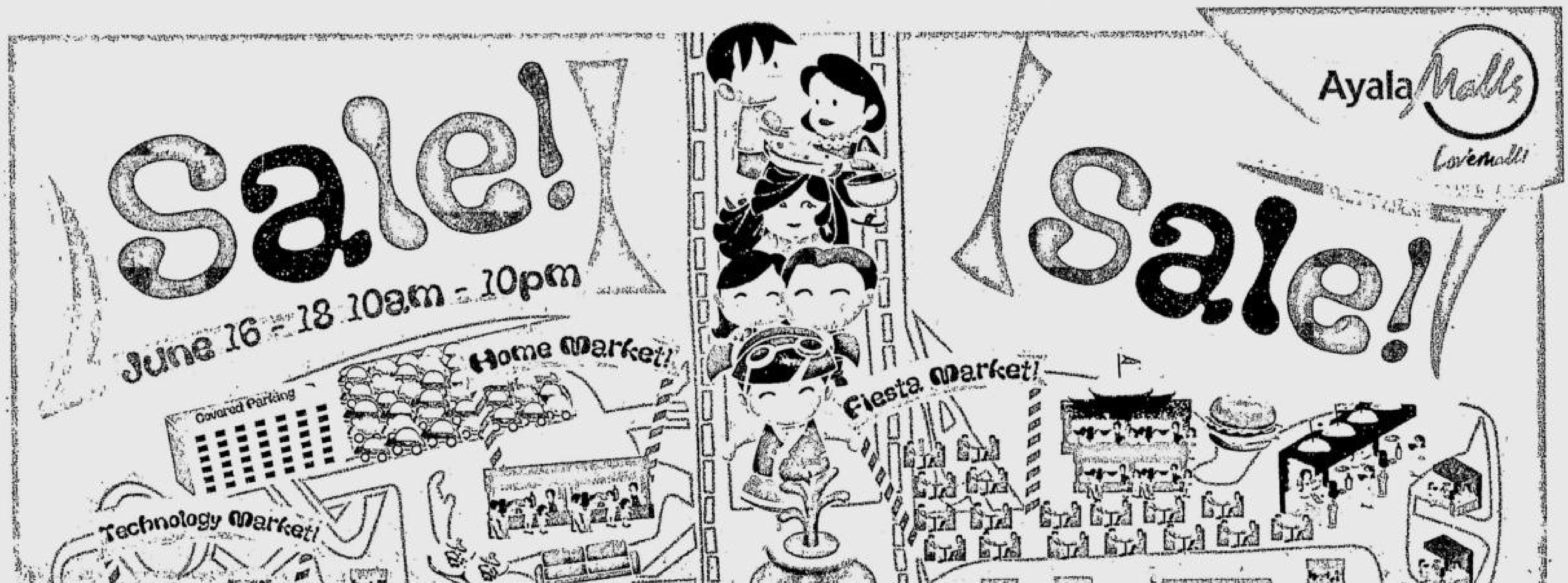
FREE LECTURES. The Association of Research and Enlightenment (ARE) in Virginia Beach is celebrating its 75th anniversary this month. The Edgar Cayce Study Group of AREPhilippines and the Serenity Healing Center will conduct free workshops/lectures/activities in June at 5 B Gen. Capinpin St., San Antonio Village, Pasig City. Call 6345058 or 0917-8997603.

DANCE TILT. Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall's Streetbeat Freestyle dance competition is open to all amateur dance groups (with all-male or all-female members aged 15 and above). Get a chance to win P15,000. Entry forms are available at the Ad and Promo Department. Members should attach a photocopy of their birth certificate or any valid ID with birth date and 3R group photo. Elimination rounds will start on June 21, 4 p.m., at the Entertainment Center. Grand finals is on July 21. Call 6815401 loc. 109.

ALUMNI DIRECTORY. Alumni of the Ateneo Graduate School of Business (AGSB) can now update their records and contact information for the school's 40th anniversary celebration this year. Graduates of the Standard MBA Program, MBA for Middle Managers, the Ateneo-Regis Program, and the Master in Business and Health Program are requested to submit information about themselves (name, contact information, address, company or current affiliation and position, course and date graduated). The information may be submitted via e-mail to the Registrar at agsb40@aps.ateneo.edu. An alumni record update form is also available for download at www.gsb.ateneo.edu. Registration forms must be submitted online or by fax to 8995548. Call 8995548/7691 loc. 2214 to 2217.

SEMINARS. The Autism Society of the Philippines is offering back-to-back seminars for parents, teachers and caregivers of persons with autism on June 17 at the Asian Social Institute (ASI), 1518 Leon Guinto cor. Escoda Sts., Malate, Manila. In the "How to Form a Social Group," scheduled 8:30 a.m.-12 noon, the resource speakers are from the Special Partners of Autism in Recreation, Knowledge and Socialization (Sparks). Edilberto I. Dizon, Ed. D., is the resource speaker for "Educational Mainstreaming for Children with Special Needs," set at 1-4:30 p.m. Pre-registering participants may pay to Autism Society Philippines, Equitable-PCI Bank, savings account no. 1281-00819-2. Deposit slip, with the name/s of participant/s, should be faxed to ASP office and brought on the day of the seminar. On-site registrants will be accepted depending on availability of slots. Only 90 slots are available. No refund will be given to no-shows.

PROMO WINNER GOES ON SHOPPING SPREE
Michelle Abad, 19, received the grand prize in the "Girlfriend Bonding Package," a promo held in connection with the recent "Ladies Fair" at Robinsons Department Store. Abad went on a shopping spree for P50,000 worth of items at RDS Galleria. The package included an overnight stay at the Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila, buffet dinner at the Seven Corners Restaurant, and a hair-and-makeup package from Jesi Mendez. RDS branches are in Robinsons Malls, Waltermart Malls, Tutuban Center, Metropolis Star and Festival Mall in Alabang and Nepo Mall Pampanga. Visit www.rds.com.ph



Erik Santos Album Launch	4th Manila Jazz Festival	Johnson & Johnson Top to Toe for Moms to Know	The 1st JAB Fair @ the AYALA MALLS	Great Finds, Great Perks Promo
June 11 Activity Center	June 16 Central Plaza	June 17 & 18 Central Plaza	June 16 - 18 Activity Center	April 3 - June 30 Get discounts or freebies plus the chance to win P10,000 worth of Ayala Malls electronic gift certificates! See coupons for more details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-174, Series of 2006.

Market! Market! is in Bonifacio Global City. For inquiries, call Customer Service Hotline at 886-7519.

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Bicutan Centerpoint Clark Cubao Fairview Harrison Las Piñas Makati Mall of Asia Manila North Edsa Megamall Pampanga Sta. Rosa Sucat

Contributing editors Apples Aberin-Sadhwani and Jenni Epperson

LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

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FASHION
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Vogue to the music

Madonna, Michael Jackson, Britney Spears—the list of music icons whose fashion styles have influenced their hordes of fans is long and varied

By Alex Y. Vergara

SINCE THE DAWN OF THE ROCK ERA IN the early 1950s, music has produced more than its fair share of style icons whose fashion savvy generations of star-struck fans have strived to emulate, and astute fashion designers and retail giants have attempted to milk.

But unlike their counterparts on TV and the big screen, musicians as style icons are considered an edgier and more eccentric bunch, thus luring a younger, more intrepid following.

And because of the medium's more fleeting nature, the looks these artists engender are arguably more ephemeral compared to those identified with larger-than-life movie stars like Audrey Hepburn, Gary Cooper and Grace Kelly.

But there's no denying the fact that musicians—from Elvis Presley to Madonna—have left and will continue to leave an indelible mark on their fans' fashion sense even if only for a few seasons. In fact, with MTV's debut in 1981, music's influence increased by leaps and bounds worldwide. Now, you need not be a die-hard fan to be swayed by how pop and rock stars dress themselves.

"Artists invariably influence their fans, who wear their idols' styles on the streets," says stylist Millet Arzaga. "When fashion designers get inspiration from both artists and street fashion, the looks these designers produce become trends, which, in turn, trickle down to ordinary people."

Thus, as soon as the video of a hot act debuts on MTV, expect big and small retailers to come up with their respective versions of the artist's outfits. What's amazing is even big-name designers and snooty fashion houses aren't impervious to such influences.

An artist's popularity and the look he or she spawns also mirrors in many ways a fan's coming of age.

"Music dictates the mood of my fashion shows," says fashion show director Robby Carmona. "In my forthcoming show for Bench, the production is greatly influenced by disco music. One of the biggest challenges we have to overcome is how to interpret it to today's kids."

Carmona could very well be channeling the dance-floor queen of them all. While Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera were still in their diapers, Madonna had already broken out of the music scene, causing, in her wake, ankle boots, beribboned head scarves, cropped tops, lace leggings, cross earrings and black bras to fly off the shelves.

Even her "lioness" locks, like the mop-top hairstyles the Beatles sported a generation earlier, became all the rage.

While all the hoopla surrounding the Material Girl was happening, a new word to describe the thousands, if not millions, of Madonna clones made it to the dictionary: "wannabe."

Two years earlier, a still black-looking Michael Jackson also made a splash in padded leather jackets, cropped pants, black moccasins and, yes, a single beaded glove.

His impact was such that even a young Aga Muhlach tried in vain to ape his look. The actor isn't alone, nor will he be the last of the wannabes.

Sense of belonging

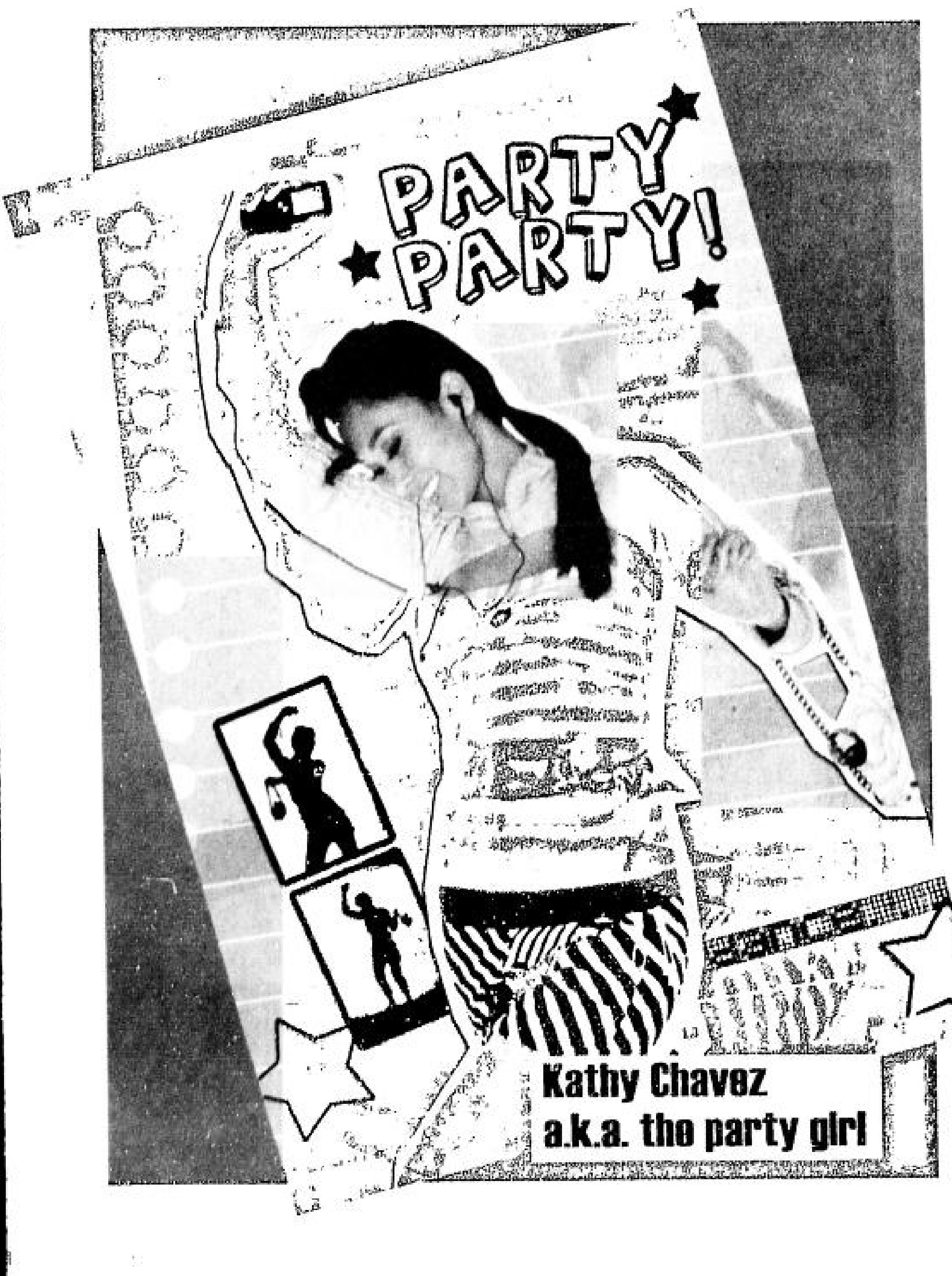
Why do fans and ordinary people emulate performers and the way they style themselves?

"They feel that these artists are talking to them through their music (and videos)," says Arzaga. "It's an attempt to belong, to be part of an informal group that achieves near-cult status. The look they imitate becomes sort of a dress code."

It would probably take a leap of faith for middle-aged mothers to see their daughters ape today's hottest singing sensations, who routinely sport low-slung jeans, tight midriffs and expose their pierced navels and noses

VOGUE/ D5

PHOTOGRAPHY
PAOLO PINEDA
STYLING
MILLET ARZAGA
DIGITAL IMAGING
VIKKI LUTA
MAKEUP
AVON
MODELS
KYNAN DEL ROSARIO, MIKEL GARCIA, RIVA GALVEZTAN, KATHY CHAVEZ (All members of the Ateneo Association for Communications Technology Management)
CLOTHES
FORNARINA, LEE and ADIDAS
SHOES
ADIDAS
BAGS
HUMAN
FEATURED PHONE
SONY ERICCSON W810i
Thanks to Monique Buensalido, Ateneo ACTM President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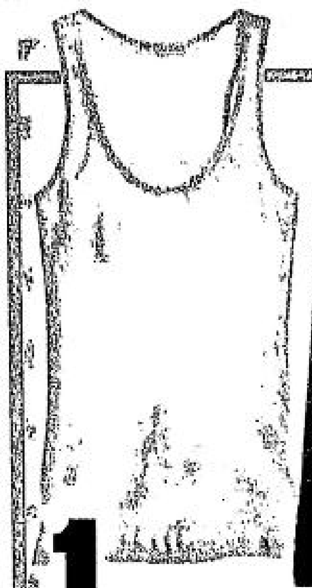


1 **MINT-GREEN** tank top, Faith Hope Love, P280

2 **LILAC** long-sleeves, Who's Billie, P1,020

3 **POWDER-BLUE** shirtdress, XSML, P2,970

4 **CORDUROY** pants, XSML, P2,900

5 **PRINTED** skirt, Wildflower, P799

6 **WIDE** belt, Greenhills *tiangge*, P300

7 **WHITE** bag, Maldita, about P1,800

7 X 7

Create a capsule wardrobe of seven items that you can layer, mix-match and even mismatch in seven ways

PHOTOGRAPHY
OCS ALVAREZ
MAKEUP
XENG ZULUETA
using Shu Uemura Boutique Birthday 23 "Summer Delights" Collection
HAIR
JANET DE RAMA
using Kiehl's Stylist Series
MODEL
ANNA SIDECO
OF PMAP

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

MAXIMIZE YOUR STYLE options while saving on clothing allowance by creating different looks using a few key pieces from your wardrobe. It's not a daunting task and can even be fun and exciting, so don't get stressed out. This sartorial exercise is supposed to make your life easier, after all.

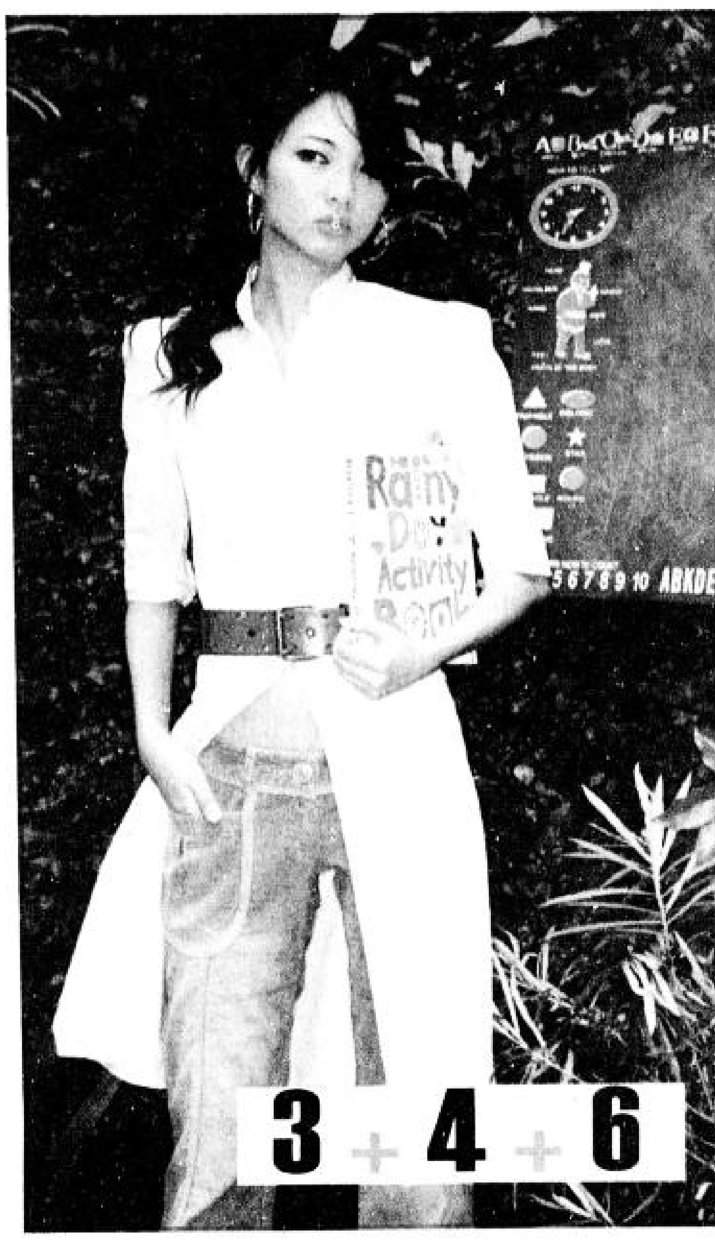
Start off by going through your closet and creating a capsule wardrobe that consists of seven different items that you can layer, mix-match and even mismatch. Then try the items on and match pieces that you feel will look good together.

If you have no idea how to start, just go ahead and try on the items anyway and create whatever combinations you can. Make a list and jot down the various sets you come up with so you can easily pinpoint the items you need when dressing for school.

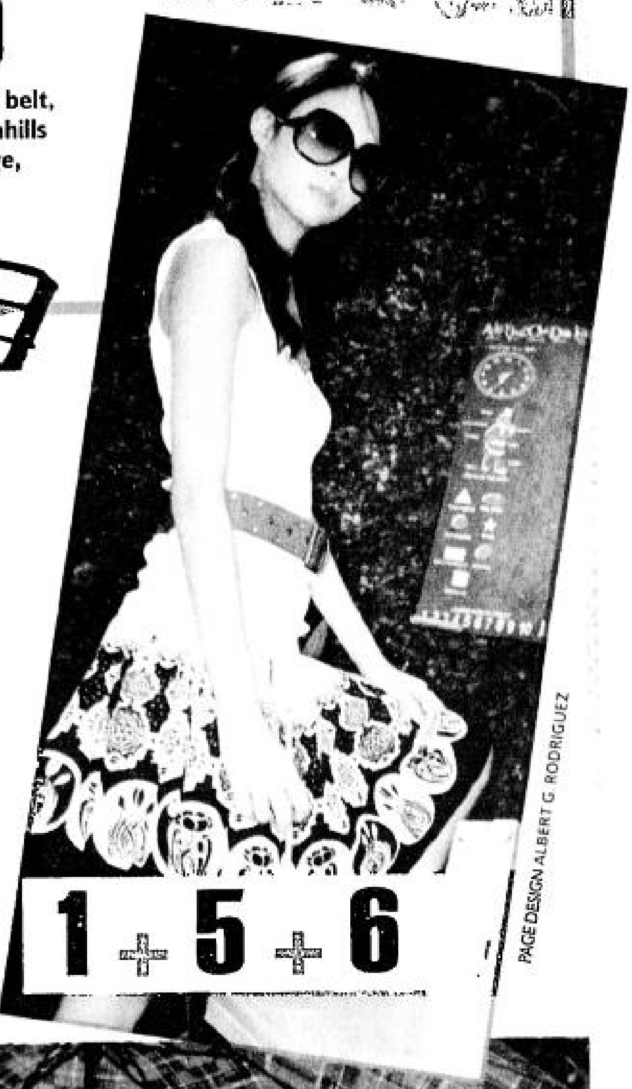
The possibilities are endless so don't be afraid to experiment. All it takes is a bit of imagination on your part. Just dress according to your personality and you can't go wrong.

To give you a better idea of how to create your own combinations, take a peek at our version of seven items worn seven ways.

E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph



3 + 4 + 6



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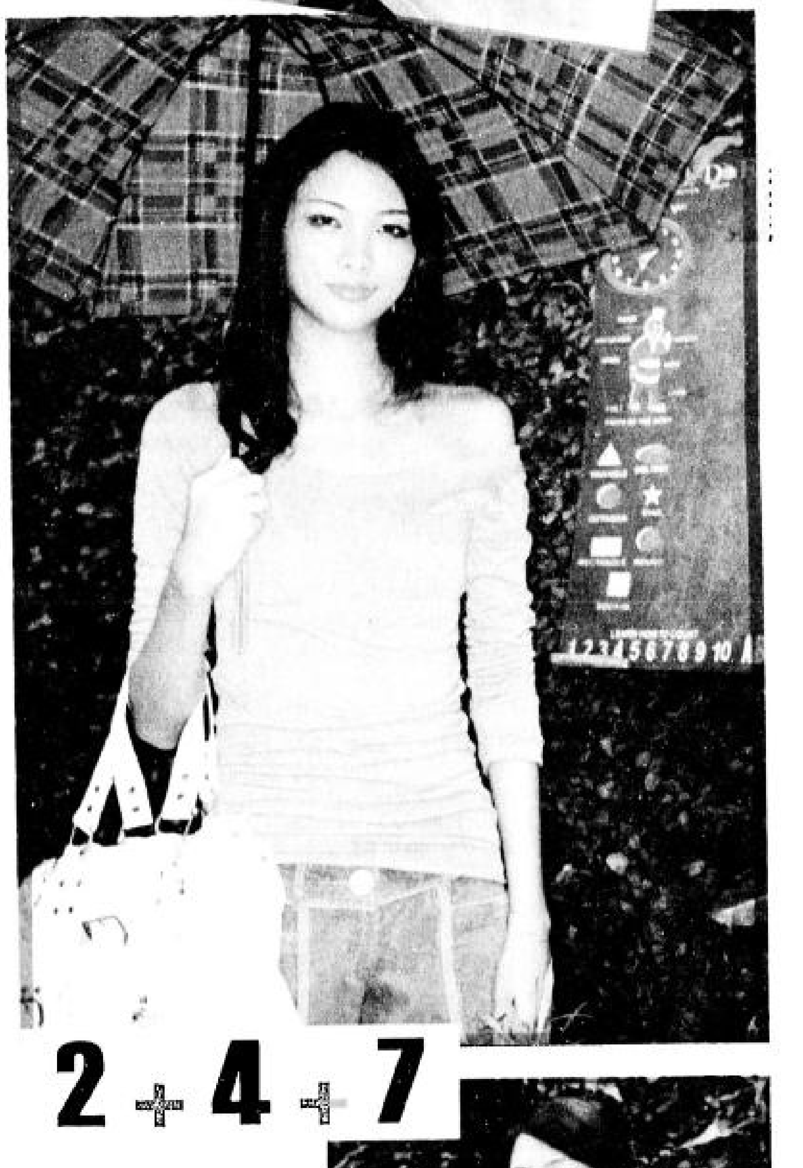

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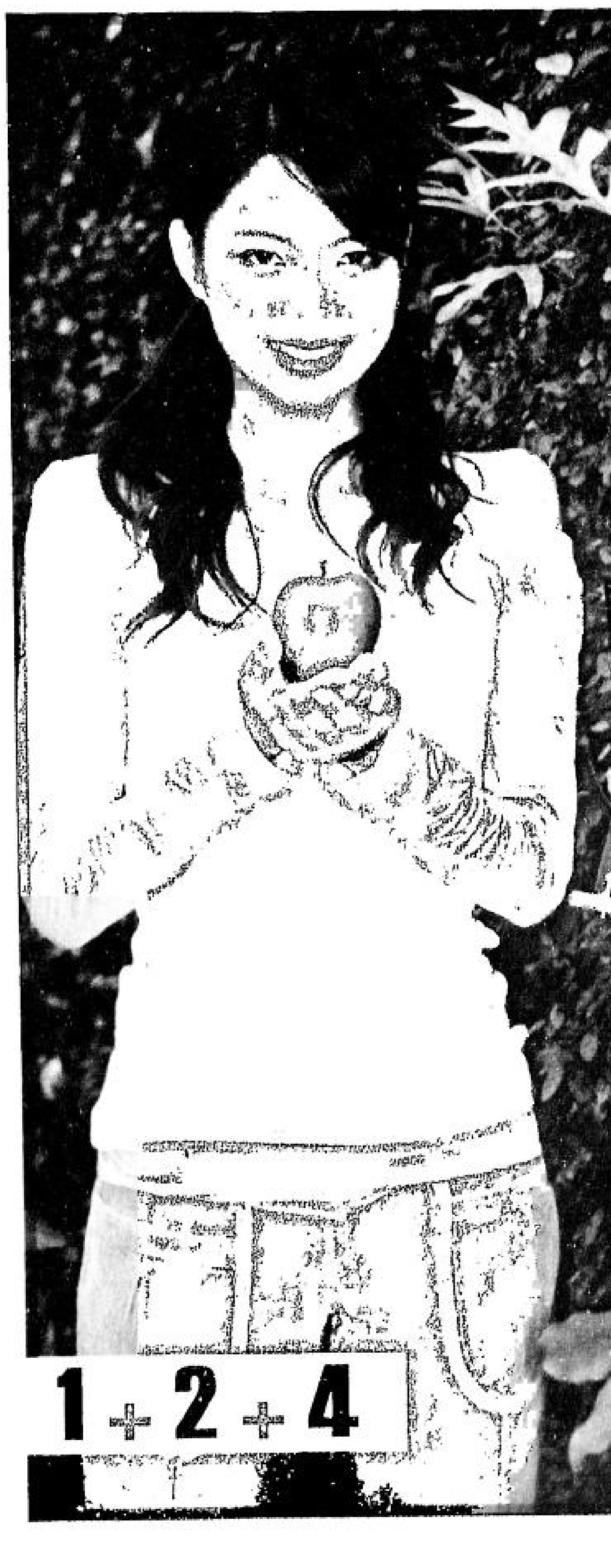

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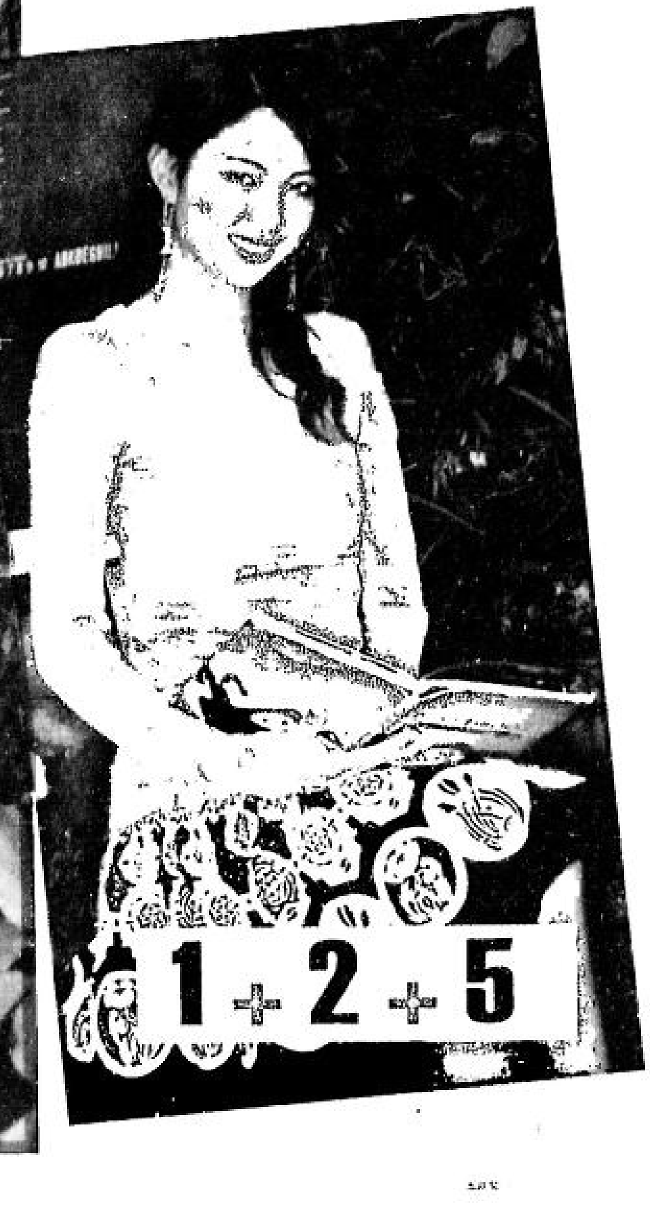

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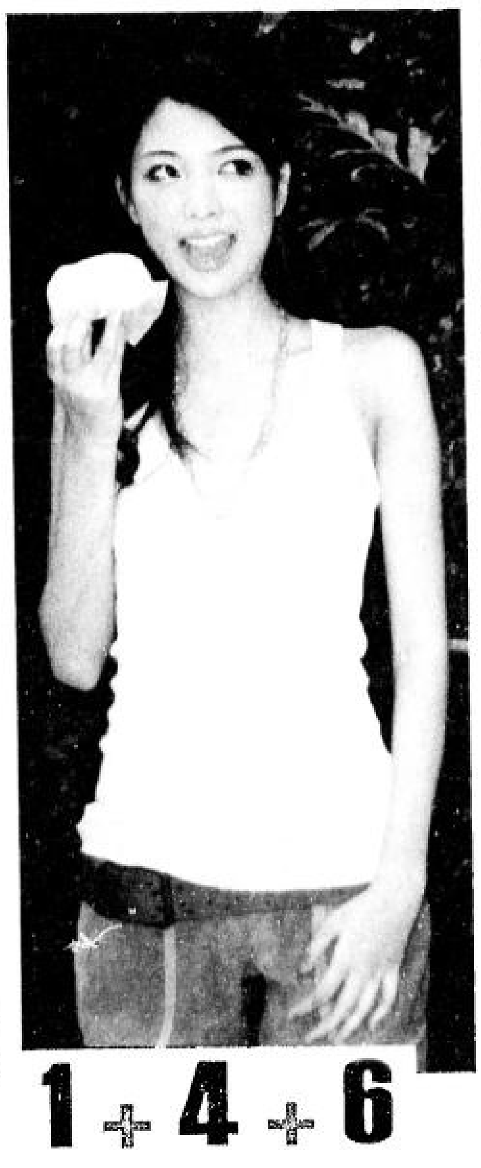

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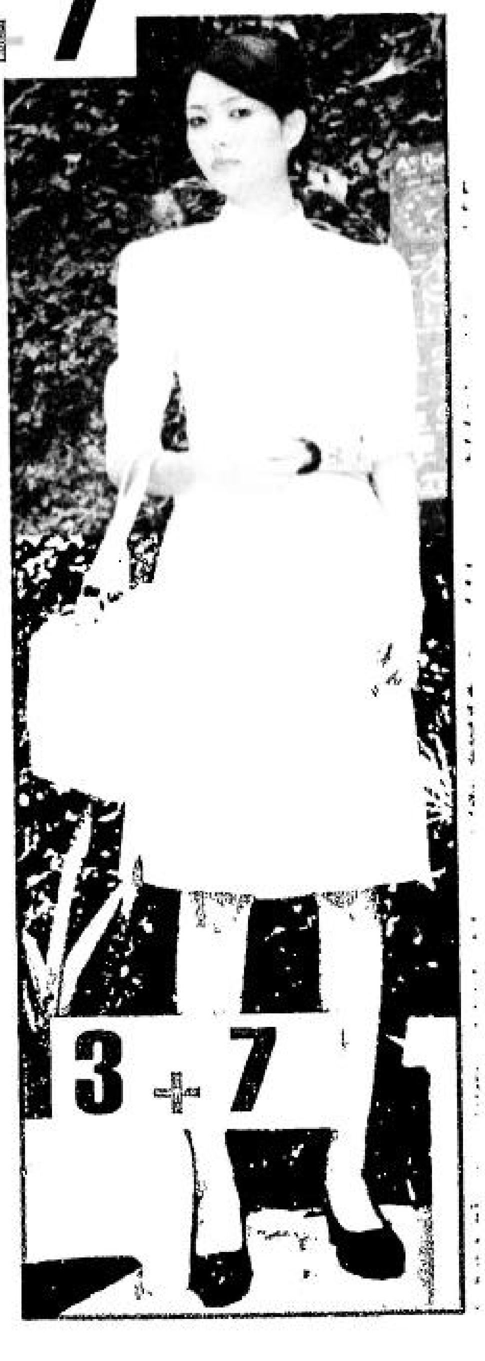


3 + 7

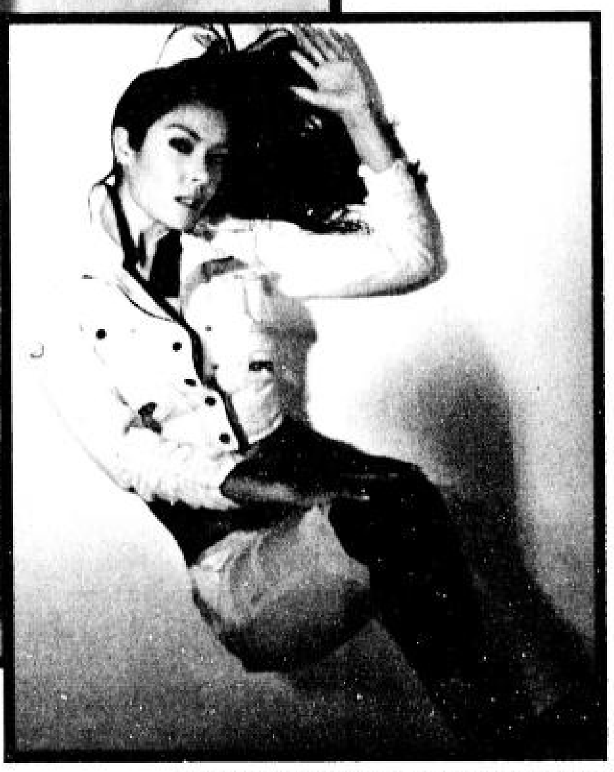
PAGE DESIGN ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

DRESS TO IMPRESS. Your little black dress gets another fresh look when paired with white leggings.

Get a leg up in the fashion showdown—literally! This season, leggings from Freeway put the arabesque in style

BLOOM IN BLACK. Those who shy away from minis can now wear mini bubble skirts with ease. Just pair it with black leggings.

PAGE DESIGN L.A. MISTADES



LONG AND SHORT OF IT. Add a street vibe to an all-white ensemble and mix-match Bermudas with leggings.

Pulling your leg

THE WORLD IS ROUND AND LIFE is all about cycles. So yes, it's no joke that leggings are back from the dead, and they're back with not just a pulse, but more like a roar.

Jenni Epperson

But before you go into Debbie Gibson-Tiffany-Bananarama-induced palpitations, fear not! This '80s staple may be back with a vengeance, but trust me: the puffy *mamon* (or cobra) hair and linebacker shoulder pads are not in the equation.

It's the must-have of the season—the opaque leggings. They've been parading down the runways of New York and Paris, jacking up sales in Bloomingdales, Neiman Marcus, Saks Fifth Avenue, and now Freeway. Lindsay Lohan is wearing them, and not to mention, ironically enough, the '80s girl herself, Madonna.

So when chicks like these are wearing them, and designers like Anna Sui and Marc Jacobs are showcasing them, you know this trend has got legs!

Just check out the latest collection from Freeway as seen on VJ/model/forever-hot Cindy Kurleto. When combined with minimalist pieces in soft fabrics and neutrals, leggings suddenly take on a slightly edgy, Brit-on-the-street chic.

From soft tunics and basic tees in tissue-knit fabrics to fur-lined cotton jackets, the silhouettes are clean-lined and simple. Colors are confined to basic black and white, with little splashes of teals and reds.

The mantra is Loose Meets Fit. Loose blouses and tunics over tight-fitting leggings balance everything out.

You could also opt for the Long and Short of It. Check out Cindy in Freeway's black leggings with a mini bubble skirt. The look is refreshingly sexy and urban!

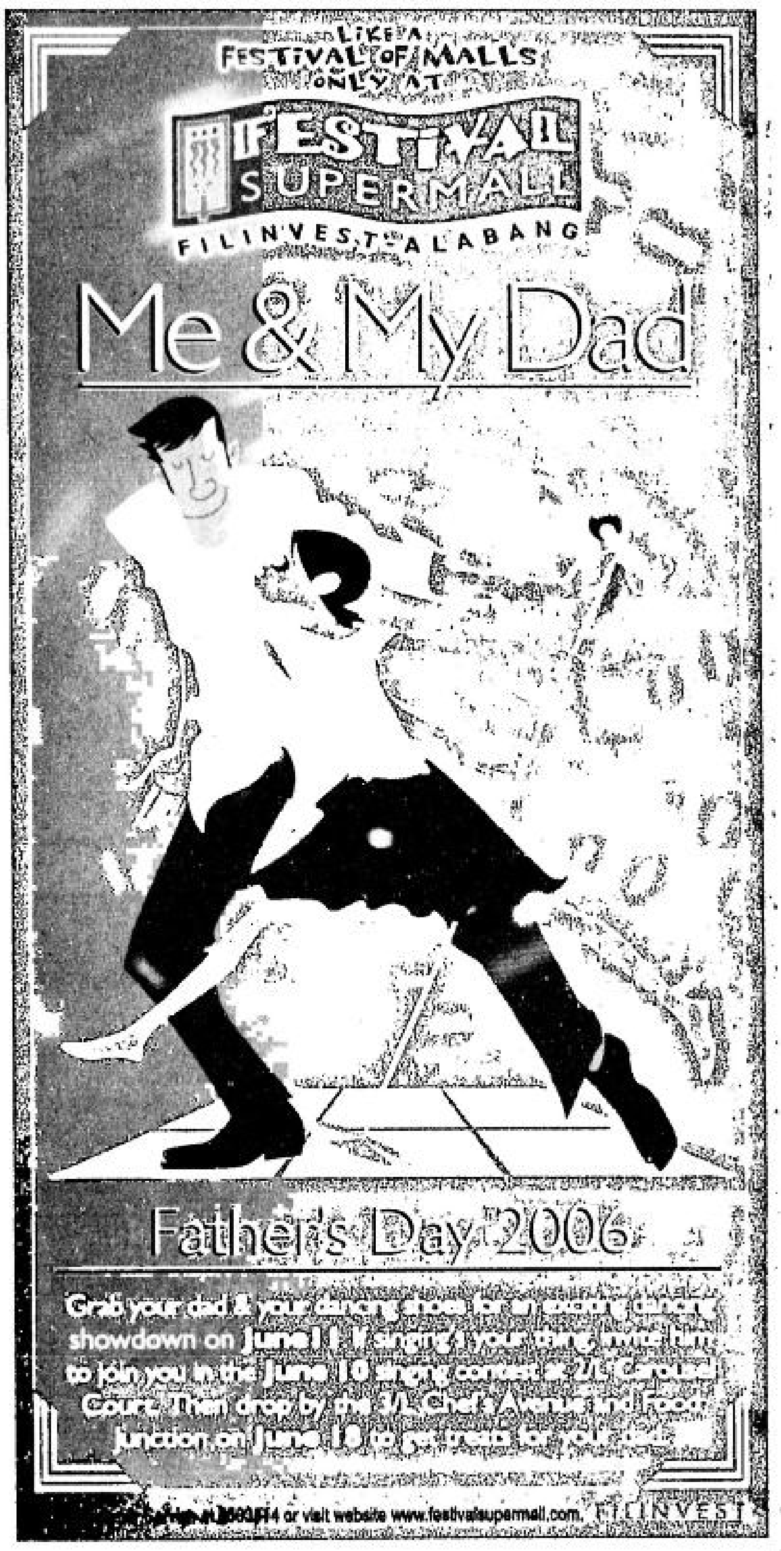
My parting words? When shopping for a pair, pick a length that stops at the thinnest part of your calf or ankle for the best visual effect.

And lastly, whether you're channeling Audrey Hepburn's ballerina grace or Kate Moss' edgy chic, remember: It's a trend! So give it a whirl and have fun with it!

E-mail the author jfashion@inquirer.com.ph

PHOTOGRAPHY
XANDER ANGELES
MAKEUP
KRIST BANSUELO
FASHION
FREEWAY
WWW.FREEWAY.NET.PH
NAILS
NAIL SPA
Unit 106 First Midland Plaza Building, 109 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City, 8300702

STYLE IN A CINCH. An oversized sports jersey looks feminine when cinched in the waist with this season's wide belt.



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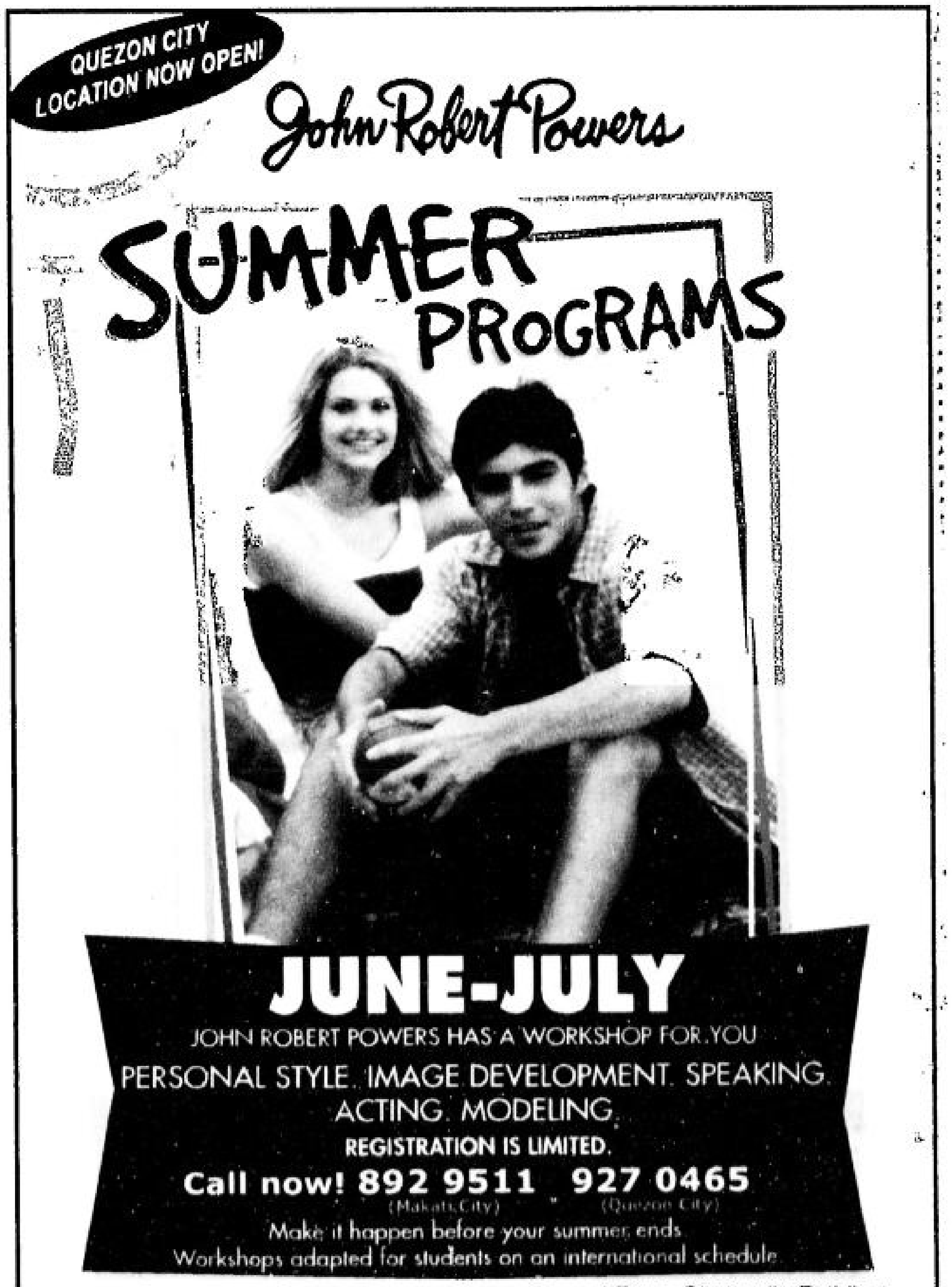

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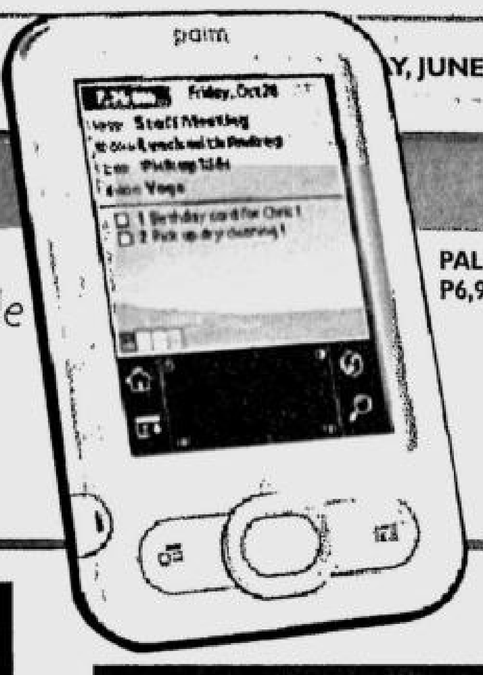
Stay in touch and entertained

Whether we admit it or not, the cell phone has become our fifth limb. This unforeseen step in human evolution, it seems, is not only here to stay, it's mutating. As the flavor-of-the-month add-on is music, here are a couple of cellphone models that will easily let you access your own choice of songs via the iTunes audio player. Now you don't have to pretend you're talking on the phone or texting like crazy. These gadgets are perfect for downtime in between classes. Just plug in your earphones and get ready to groove.

MOTOROLA SLVR L7, P13,500 and ROKR, P11,500, both with iTunes

Organize, organize, organize

For the tech-obsessed, this modest little gadget offers the basic features of a PDA at an affordable price. With this cute little helper, keeping track of your classes, workload and appointments will be a breeze. Just make sure you actually use it.



PALM Z22, P6,900

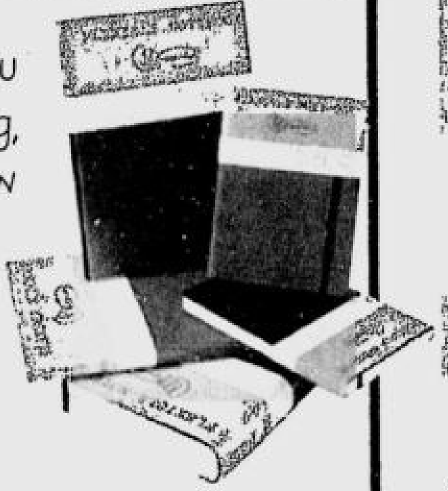
Back-to-school cool

By Genea Padilla
Contributor

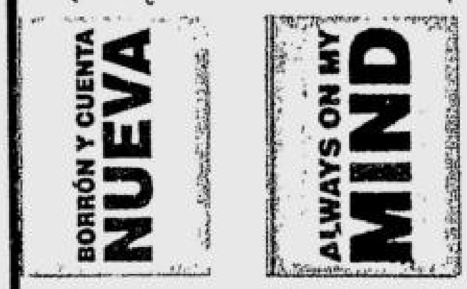
Once upon a time, back-to-school shopping meant lunch boxes, school bags, spiral notebooks and socks. The list remained pretty much the same, whether you were in grade school or college. Those were the good old days. Now that we're in the cyberage, even the basics are not quite so basic anymore. If you're a collegiate newbie, returnee, or a young professional going back for your nth degree, your "essentials" list will surely include some big-ticket items. Here are a few tempting goodies that can either make your shopping list or, regrettably, just your wish list.

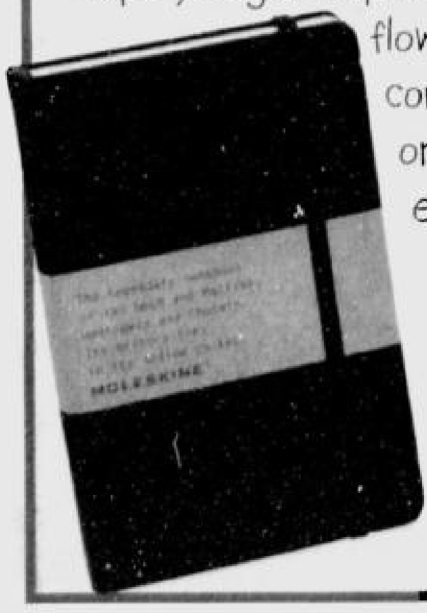
Whether you decide to go old school or new school, it's just time to go—shopping, that is

Hypergraphia paraphernalia

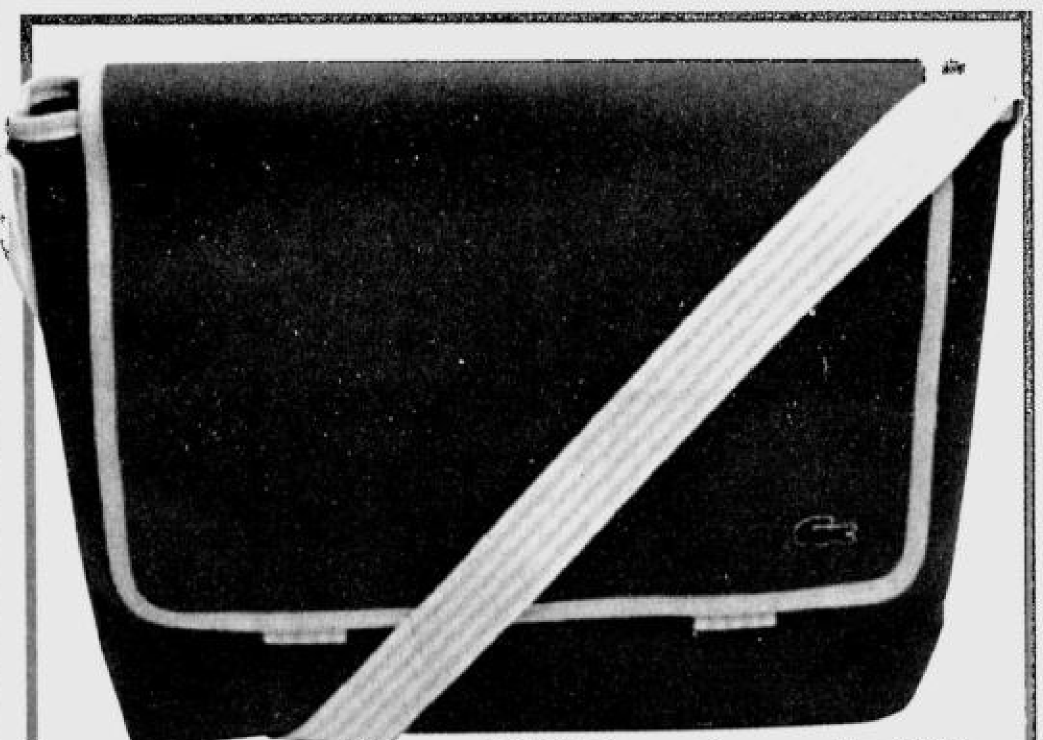


If the romantic traditionalist in you is alive and kicking, and you have a few bucks to spare, you'll love these notebooks from Miquelrius and Moleskine (pronounced mol-a-skeen-a/mo-leh-skeen-eh, you can say mole skin—as in skin of a mole—it doesn't really matter so long as you're getting the same item). Pricey and not always easily available (Miquelrius is from Spain and Moleskine is from Italy), these notebooks/journals are handy, practical and beautiful. Whether you opt for the classic Moleskine with its blank pages and pockets for loose sheets, the Flexible Notebooks of Miquelrius with its square-lined pages, or the stylish, cloth-covered Divinas Palabras, we hope you get inspired to jot down flowing prose, complex drawings or beautiful equations.





MOLESKINE notebooks, P900 for the classic, to order from Benedict Bueno, sales@moleskineph.com; Miquelrius Flexible notebooks, P529-P759, and Miquelrius Divinas Palabras notebooks, P349-P599, available at Fully Booked

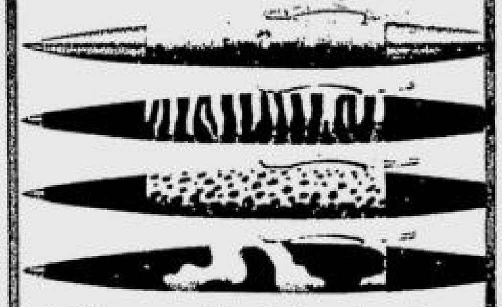


LACOSTE Summer 4 messenger bag, P5,650

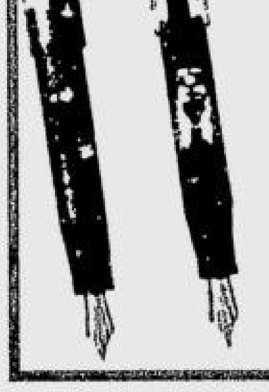
Keeping it together

All your accumulated "tools" will have to go with you to school. Separately or collectively, they cost a pretty bundle, so select a sturdy bag in which to lug them. Messenger bags comes highly recommended, since they are often unisex, roomy and durable. Something like Lacoste Summer 4 will get the job done.

Mightier than the sword



Toting a sleek laptop to school may be a techie's wet dream come true, but it's not for everyone. Call it old-fashioned, but there really is something about the pen and paper connection. So to complement the previous selections, here are some pens to match. Whether you are a little devil or angel in class, you might find the one that suits you from Inoxcrom's humorous Little Devil, Tribes, or the glow-in-the-dark Generation Y lines. Go solid or animal with Faber Castell. The E-motion pens are available in zebra, cow and cat prints.



FABER Castell, P694.75 each, and Inoxcrom pens, starting at P114, available in leading bookstores

PAGE DESIGN MB BELESARIO

Mikel Garcia
a.k.a. the rocker

Phoned-in music

TELL ME WHAT MUSIC YOU listen to and I'll tell you who you are.

Our music choices tell a lot about our personality and style, similar to how we reveal ourselves by the company we keep, the clothes we wear and the food we eat.

Take a rock music lover, for instance. He usually tends to be more adventurous, and would probably have his own rock band. The pop music lover would look like the cute and friendly girl-next-door, and would dance to the latest boy-band song. The hip-hop music lover would not be seen without his A-Town or G-Unit caps while bouncing to the bass beats blasting from his car. And a classical music lover would be the resident preppy girl, with her cardigans and slacks.

More and more, music has become part of this generation's lifestyle. Some people just can't live without their music and just have to take them wherever they go. We see them on the streets, in the classrooms, in the malls, even in the office, with their earphones eternally stuck in their ears.

When it was first released, the Sony Walkman became the must-have accessory in the '80s and the '90s (and the Discman in the latter part of the '90s and early 2000). Today, Sony Ericsson has integrated the Walkman technology into its new line of music mobile phones, the latest being the W810i. And because it bears the Walkman name, it brings with it the legacy of great quality in music.

With its expandable memory, you can load up to more than a thousand songs in the Sony Ericsson W810i. The phone has a sleek black design, so it can go with whatever you're wearing.

The W810i lets you rock with your own music anywhere, anytime while giving you all the things you want and need in a mobile phone.

date 06.17.06

Riva Galveztan
a.k.a. the alternative chick

Vogue to the music

From page D1

with impunity.

It was as if these women didn't cause their own parents to freak out more than a generation ago after they had their earlobes (up to the cartilage!) pierced several times to wear all those earrings a la Madonna.

The funny part is their former style icon—who's still very much in the limelight with a totally different look today—has now become one of their kids' role models.

Indeed, after Madonna, whose name has now become synonymous to "reinvention," no artist has yet to reign indefinitely as a style icon. While not a few copycats and would-be contenders have fallen by the wayside (will you be one of them, Britney?), Madge still stands to this day, morphing and "vogue-ing" with every video release.

Prime influence

Such is her influence on global fashion that several fashion designers I interviewed for this story cite her and the influence she continues to wield in bridging music and fashion, substance and style, glamour and glitz.

"Music and fashion are interrelated as they influence each other most of the time," says Jojie Lloren. "After all, these two forms of expression define the lifestyles of the young."

Madonna is the reigning example, he adds. She has created looks that were adopted by her listeners and, eventually, designers every time she would launch an album.

"Fashion, just like music, changes, evolves, resurfaces and adapts according to the needs and call of the times," says Joey Samson. "Madonna usually comes up with videos where she wears very distinct and trend-setting looks. More often than not, these looks become the season's prevailing trends."

Punk, new wave and, more recently, hip-hop music have also had a similar influence on fans, he adds. These genres have greatly influenced the way a generation puts together a look or even adapts to a certain lifestyle.

In such cases, retail fashion usually takes precedence over couture.

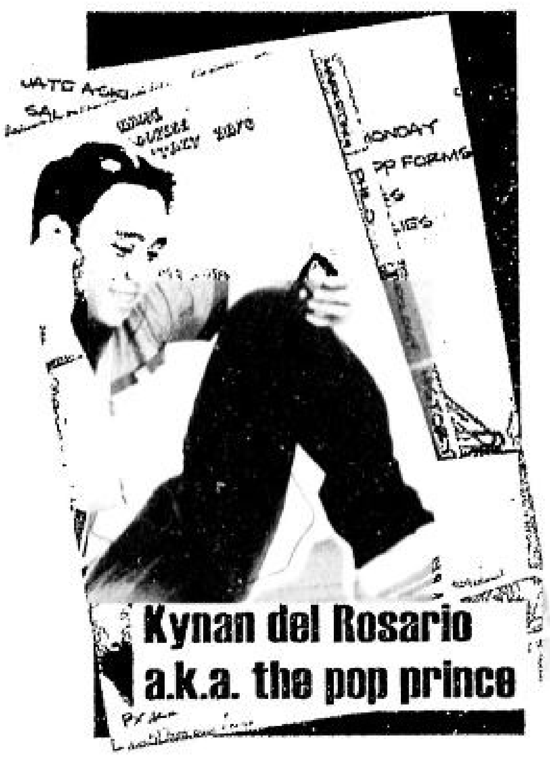
"As a designer, I often draw a bit of inspiration from music depending on what's marketable nowadays," says M Barretto, in-house designer of Folded and Hung, who counts, apart from Madonna, Michael Bublé, Justin Timberlake and the group Il Divo among his influences.

Although there's a definite connection between fashion and music, the latter doesn't always figure in a designer's creative process.

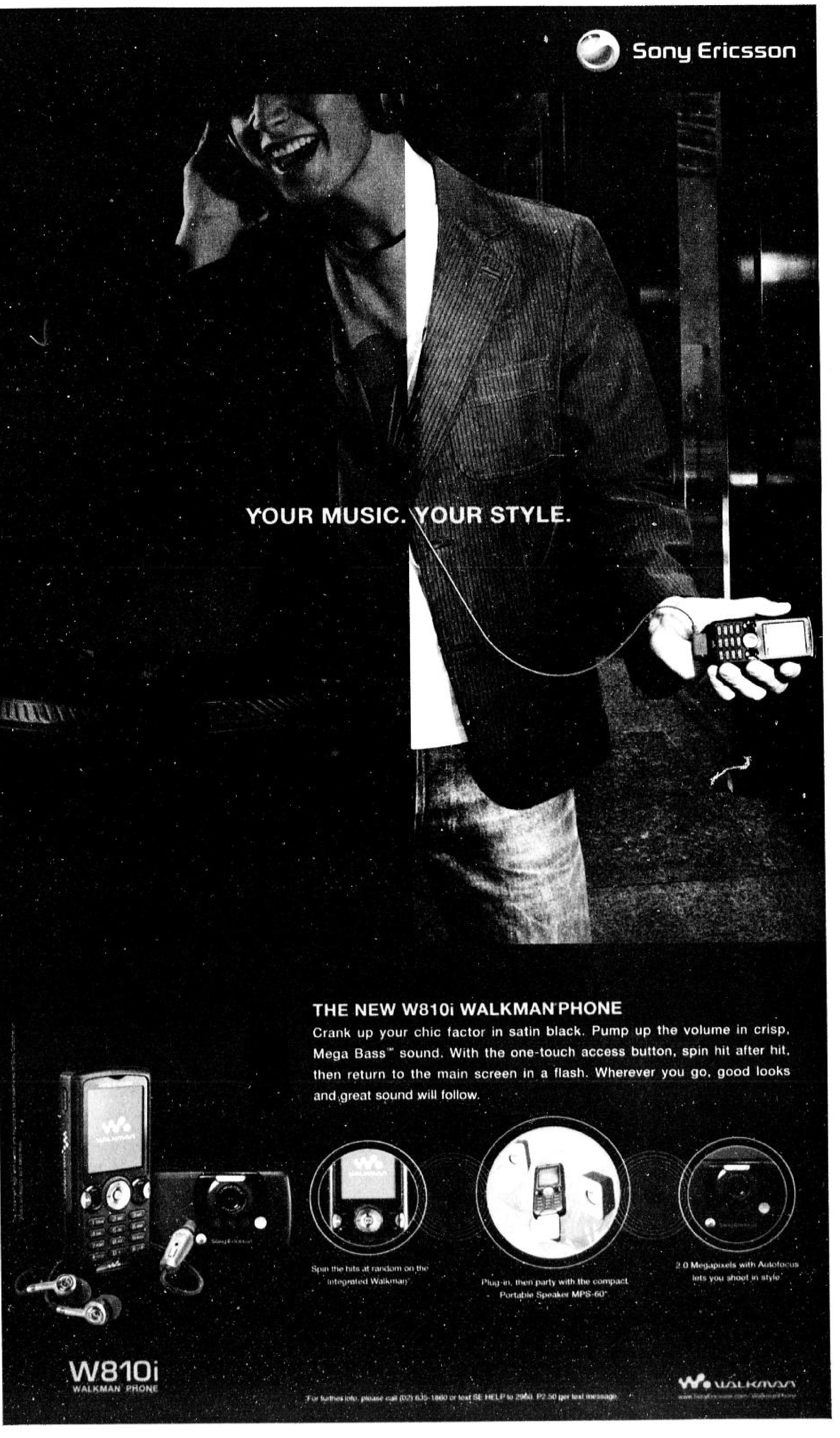
Samson, for instance, treats it more as a tool to set the mood for a particular collection. Similarly, music is only one source of inspiration in Lloren's creative arsenal.

Just the same, it doesn't hurt these designers to listen either to classy French music or ear-splitting heavy metal during the long and sometimes arduous creative process that results in their fashion creations.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



Kynan del Rosario
a.k.a. the pop prince



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Contributing editor
Ria Francisco-Prieto

LIFESTYLE

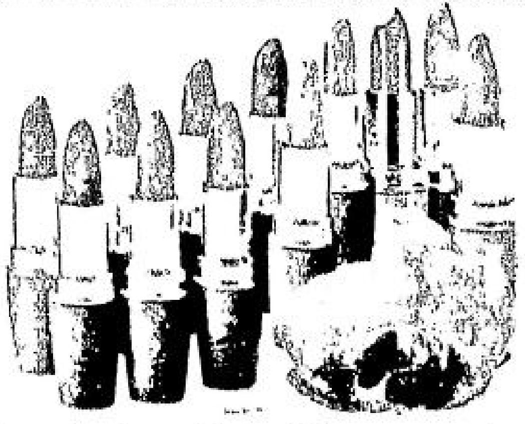
Father knows best

For an upcoming story in the Sunday Lifestyle section, tell us in 150 words or less what's the best thing you've learned from your father. Deadline is June 14. E-mail to dad2reader@inquirer.com.ph. Or you can mail to PDI-Lifestyle Section, P.O. Box 2353, Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati City, attn: Dad to Reader. Include your full name, address and phone numbers.

The star of TV's 'Darna' and 'Majika' is the new face of Avon Cosmetics

Knockout Angel

By Cheche V. Moral



BEAUTY BY THE DOZEN. The new moisture-rich lipstick comes in Strawberry Delish, Heaven, Sun Coral, Barely There, Rose, Lava Love, Spicy, Melted Sun, Pale Rose, Apricot, Mauve and Knockout Pink.

REPORTS ARE RIFE THAT "Pretty Woman" Julia Roberts has been tapped to be the new global spokesperson for Avon Cosmetics. Closer to home, local filmdom's own pretty woman, Angel Locsin, was introduced Wednesday as the new face of the beauty company, taking over from international singer-actress Lea Salonga.

One of local cinema's most celebrated personalities, the 21-year-old Locsin is currently the favored endorser of several companies, owing to her "charming personality and sincerity that make it easy for people to approach her and relate to her," according to Joanna Gilladoga, Avon's color category head for Southeast Asia cluster.

Avon's choice for its new face may seem like a big leap, given its previous endorser's decidedly more urbane charm.

While her predecessor is widely credited for putting the Philippines' name on the entertainment map by playing leads in Broadway and West End musicals, Locsin is best known for playing the *komiks* heroine Darna, and for her roles in the TV fantasy series "Mulawin" and "Majika."

Then again, perhaps it's her mass appeal that makes Locsin fit the Avon mold just right. The brand, after all, caters to a broad market, believing in beauty that "should be within every woman's reach."

Locsin stars in Avon's first TV commercial in four years, where she wears Knockout Pink, her signature lipstick shade from Avon Color's new Ultra Rich Moisture Lipstick.

The new lipstick line boasts of ingredients that impart deep moisture, like allantoin, vitamins A, C and E, jojoba gel, and SPF 15. The lipstick's Repleni-Moisture Boost Technology is said to seek out lips' dry patches to lock in the moisture. Luscious lips, after all, owe largely to moisture, said Gilladoga. "When moisture is rich, color is richer."

Ultra Rich Moisture Lipstick comes in 12 dewy shades, and will retail at P235 starting mid-June.

BEAUTY

AVON Color's new spokesmodel wears Knockout Pink Ultra Moisture Rich Lipstick.

LOCSIN with Avon execs Rita Nisperos, Joanna Gilladoga, Rouen Ran, Sara Macintosh, Bob Bridon and Ina Quiogue, at the launch in Hotel Philippine Plaza on Wednesday

PHOTOS: JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

At first blush

KNOCKOUT!

Ria Francisco-Prieto

I REMEMBER BEING SO EXcited to go to National Book Store to shop for my school supplies when I was younger.

Covering my notebooks with plastic was something I took seriously. Everything had to match! I even went through a phase where I would cover my notebooks with pages I ripped from magazines.

My handwriting on the first few pages of my notebook were neat, but after about 10 pages I would hardly write on it anymore.

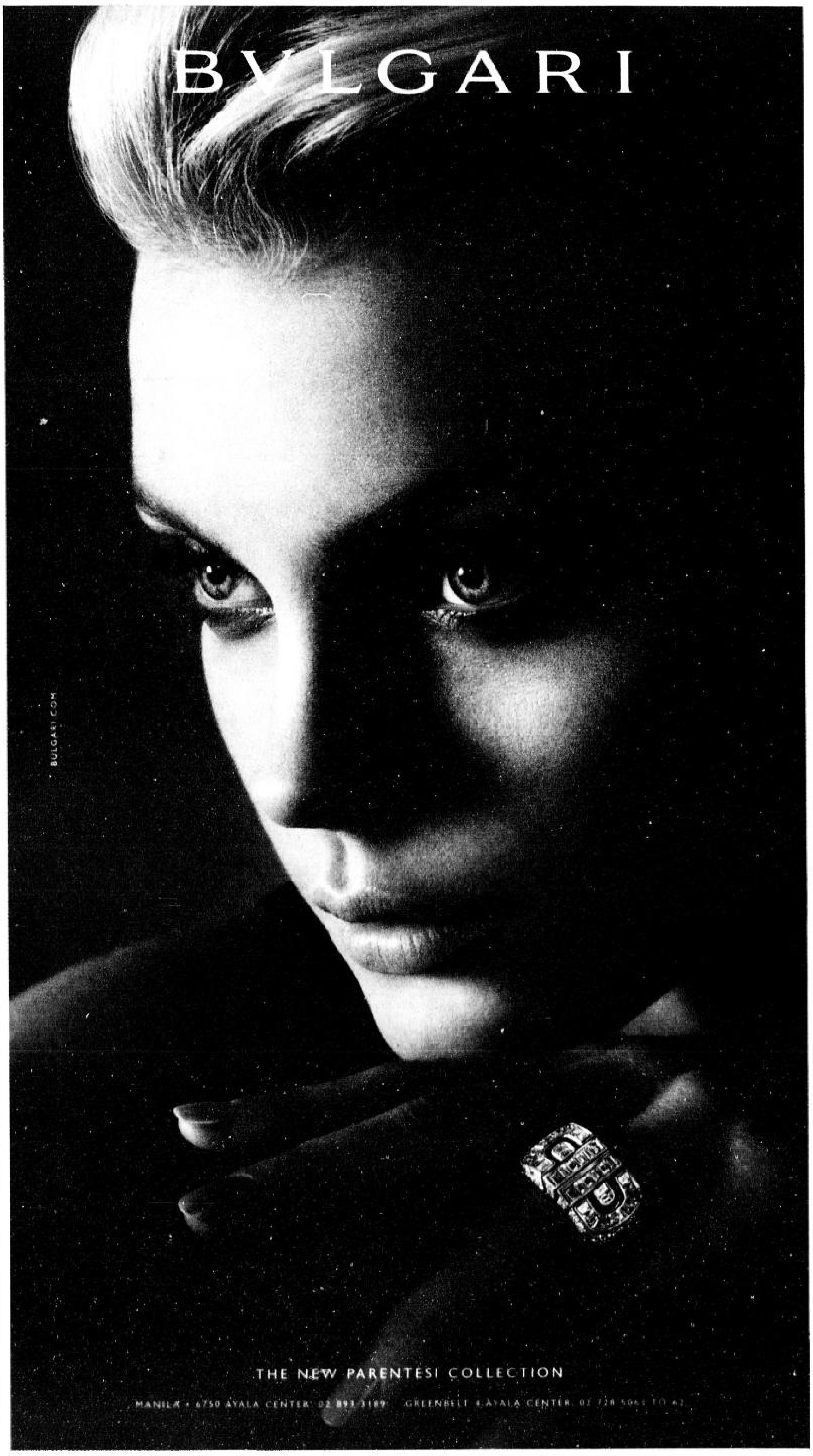
I also made sure that I had the best pencil case. I would go to Gift Gate to buy My Melody, Little Twin Star, and Hello Kitty colored pens. Now I remember why I didn't take much notes. I was busy using my pens to hand out stylized scripts (what we called "letterings") of my classmates' names.

They say everything we need to learn we learn in kindergarten. I say all the stuff about "*kikay* stuff" I learned in school. The first time I used blush I was in the house of my high school best friend, Trissa. She put some on my cheeks and we decided to walk to Virra Mall since she just lived across from it.

I was not comfortable stepping out of her house in makeup, but she kept bugging me to do it. At first I was conscious, then I eventually forgot about it. When we got back to her house she told me how much it suited me and that a lot of people were taking notice of me.

Truth is, it was so packed in Virra Mall that there were definitely people right in front of me! But I honestly think that was when my love affair with makeup began.

When you are as pale as I am, a little blush will go a long way. Actually blush will help anybody, period. It brightens up your face and makes you seem healthier.



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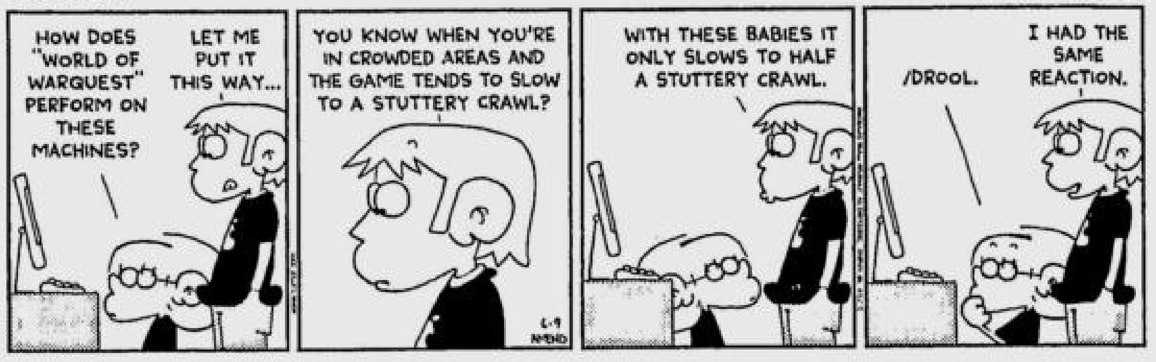
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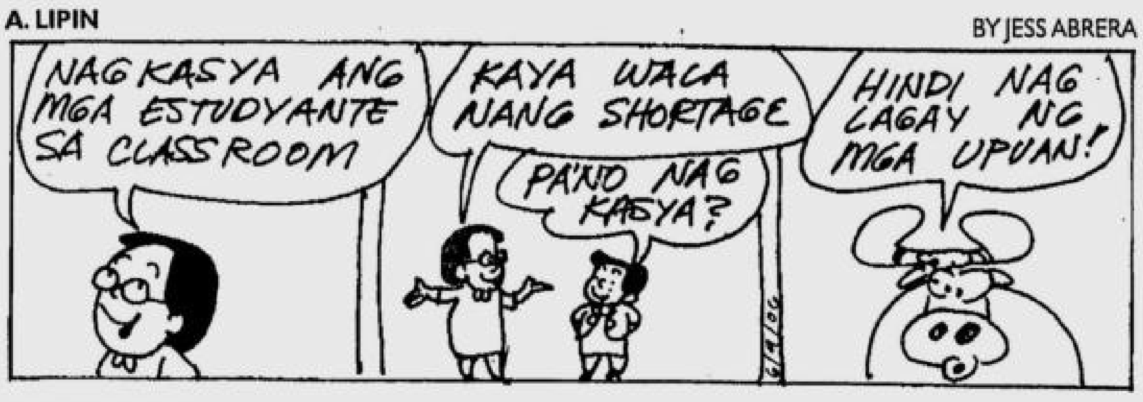
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA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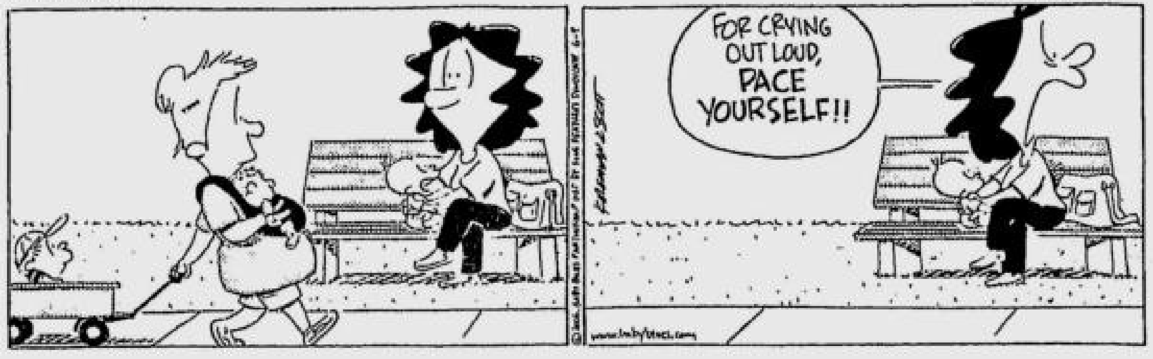
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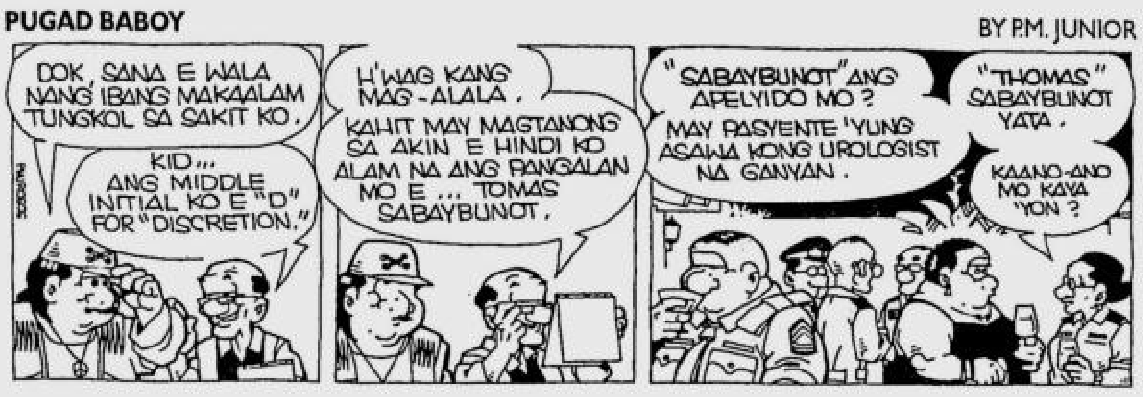
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KAHIT MAY MAGTANONG SA AKIN E HINDI KO ALAM NA ANG PANGALAN MO E ... TOMAS SABAYBUNOT.
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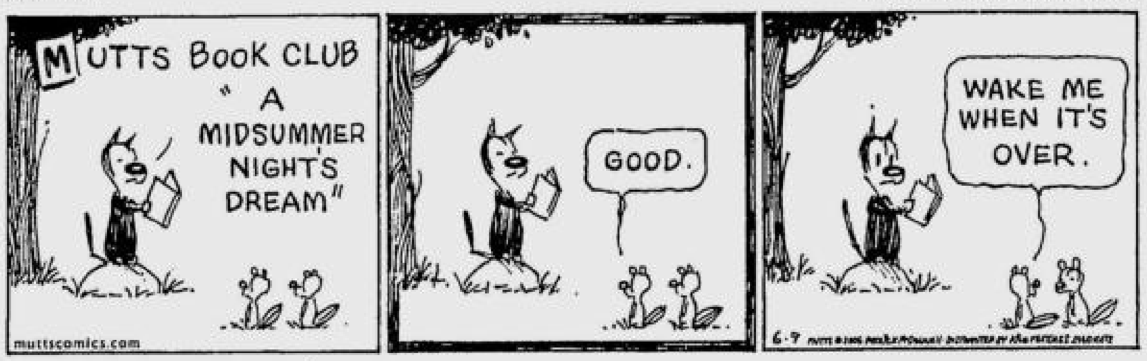
MAY PASYENTE 'YUNG ASAWA KONG UROLOGIST NA GANYAN.
"THOMAS" SABAYBUNOT YATA.
KAANO-ANO MO KAYA 'YON?

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL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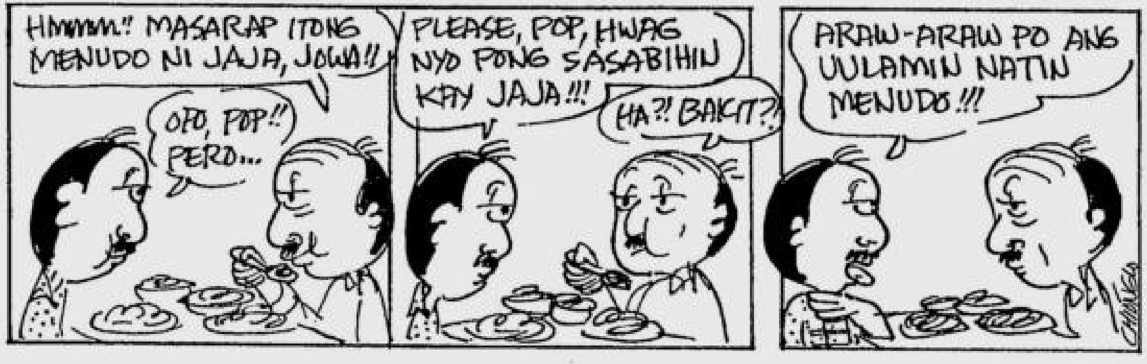
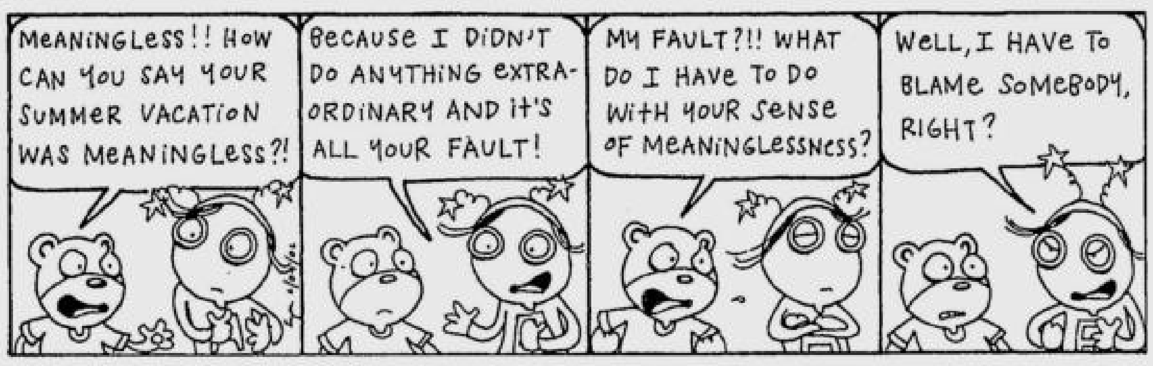
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


HMMM!! MASARAP ITONG MENUDO NI JAJA, JOWA!!
OPO, POP!! PERO...
PLEASE, POP, HWAG NYO PONG SASABIHIN KAY JAJA!!!
HA?! BAKIT?!
ARAW-ARAW PO ANG UULAMIN NATIN MENUDO!!!

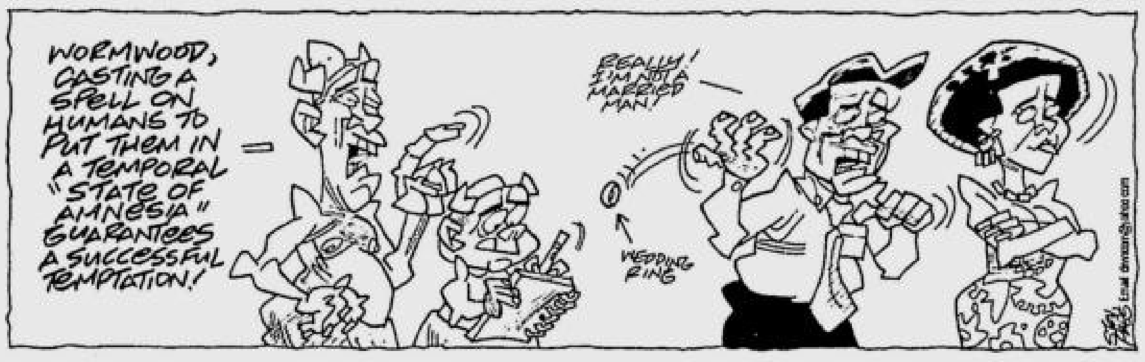
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


MEANINGLESS!! HOW CAN YOU SAY YOUR SUMMER VACATION WAS MEANINGLESS?!
BECAUSE I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING EXTRA-ORDINARY AND IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!
MY FAULT?!! WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO WITH YOUR SENSE OF MEANINGLESSNESS?
WELL, I HAVE TO BLAME SOMEBODY, RIGHT?

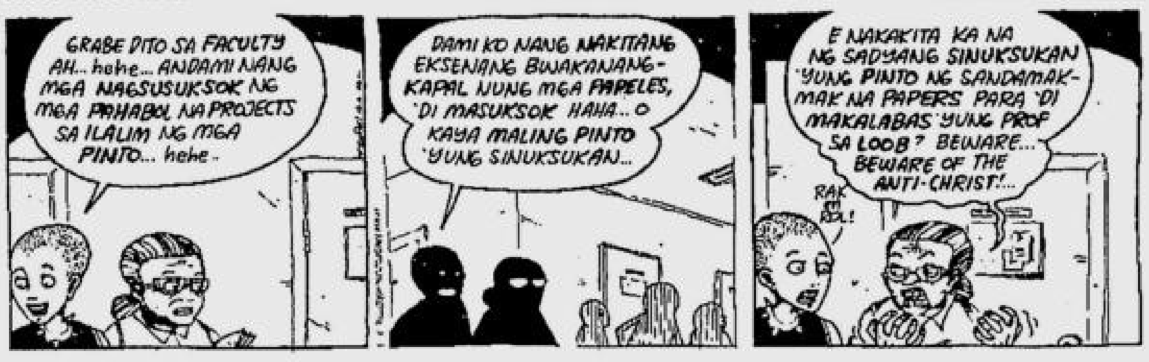
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


WORMWOOD, CASTING A SPELL ON HUMANS TO PUT THEM IN A TEMPORAL "STATE OF AMNESIA" GUARANTEES A SUCCESSFUL TEMPTATION!
REALLY! I'M NOT A MARRIED MAN!
WEDDING RING

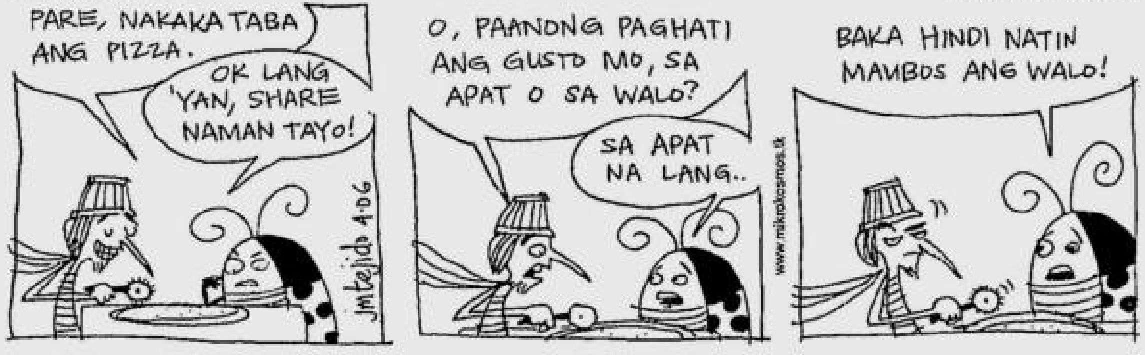
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


GRABE DITO SA FACULTY AH... hehe... ANDAMI NANG MGA NAGSUSUKSOK NG MGA PAHABOL NA PROJECTS SA ILALIM NG MGA PINTO... hehe.
DAMI KO NANG NAKITANG EKSENANG BWAKANANG-KAPAL NUNG MGA PAPELES, 'DI MASUKSOK HAHA... O KAYA MALING PINTO 'YUNG SINUKSUKAN...
E NAKAKITA KA NA NG SADYANG SINUKSUKAN 'YUNG PINTO NG SANDAMAK-MAK NA PAPERS PARA 'DI MAKALABAS 'YUNG PROF SA LOOB? BEWARE... BEWARE OF THE ANTI-CHRIST!...
RAK EN ROL!

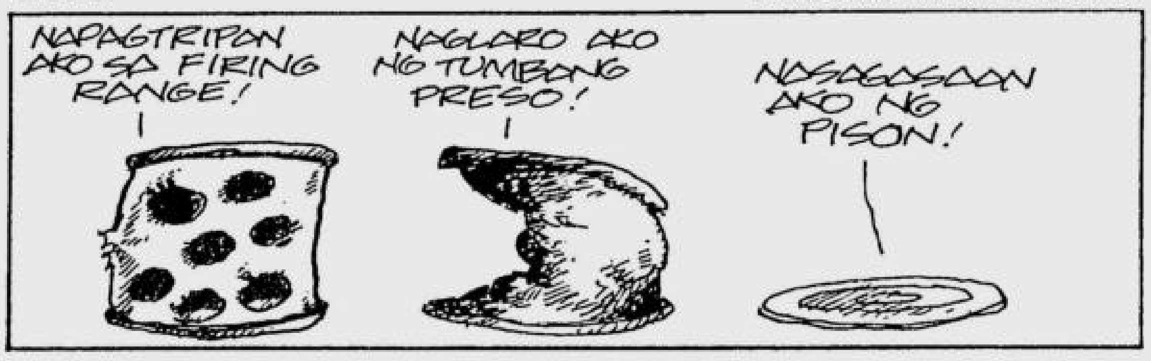
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


PARE, NAKAKATABA ANG PIZZA.
OK LANG 'YAN, SHARE NAMAN TAYO!
jmtejido 4-06
O, PAANONG PAGHATI ANG GUSTO MO, SA APAT O SA WALO?
SA APAT NA LANG..
www.mikrokosmos.tk
BAKA HINDI NATIN MAUBOS ANG WALO!

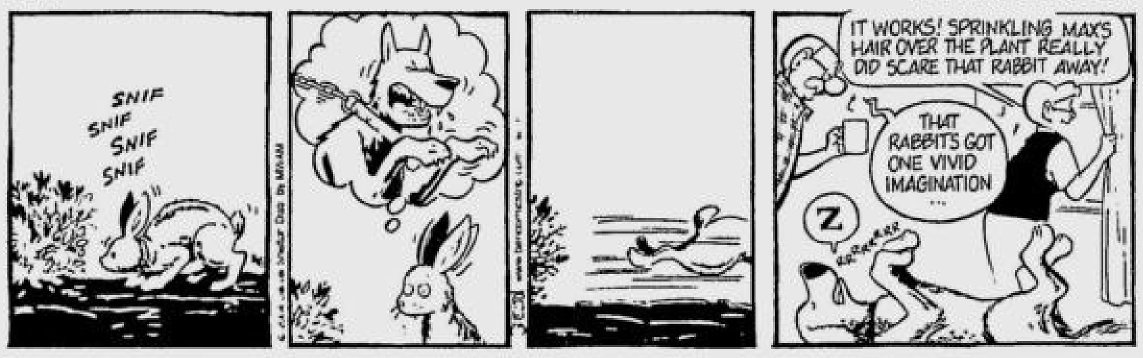
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

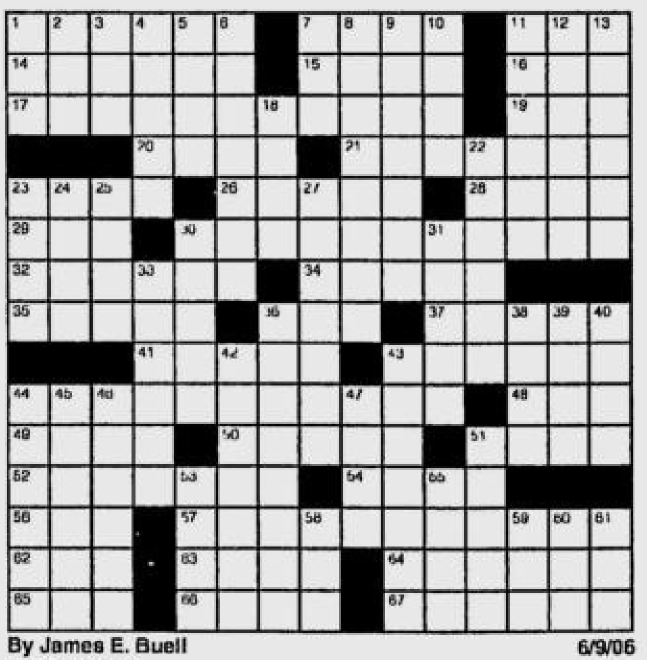

NAPAGTRIPAN AKO SA FIRING RANGE!
NAGLARO AKO NG TUMBANG PRESO!
NASAGASAAN AKO NG PISON!

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


SNIF SNIF SNIF SNIF
IT WORKS! SPRINKLING MAX'S HAIR OVER THE PLANT REALLY DID SCARE THAT RABBIT AWAY!
THAT RABBIT'S GOT ONE VIVID IMAGINATION ...
Z

DAILY CROSSWORD



By James E. Buell
Edgewater, FL

6/9/06

ACROSS
1 Stay clear of
7 Slightly cracked
11 '70s rock duo, __ & Eddie
14 Leon lady
15 Diner's card
16 Head feature
17 Venus and Serena head-to-head
19 Dr. of rap
20 Cave feedback
21 Prime cut
23 Bloody
26 Tot rod?
28 Tax-sheltered $$
29 Onassis, to pals
30 Gore to Clinton, and vice-versa
32 Capital of Croatia
34 Dish in a lab
35 Wrath
36 Over the hill
37 Skylit lobbies
41 Tropical fruit
43 Improbable victories
44 Publishing preview
48 Wager
49 Crude person
50 Arduous journeys
51 Baby's call
52 Last
54 Verdi heroine
56 Barn bird
57 Preakness picks, perhaps
62 School of the future?
63 "The Joy of Cooking" author Rombauer
64 Begrudges
65 Bug someone?
66 Watched
67 Singer Nicks

DOWN
1 Ballpark fig.
2 Comprehend
3 MSNBC rival
4 Hive hoard
5 Cartman of "South Park"
6 Old-time laundry device
7 MD's grp.
8 Sported on the waves, perhaps
9 Very old
10 Rhine tributary
11 Felt hat with a brim
12 Cattle catcher
13 Spanish hot sulfur springs
18 Forenoon
22 Restrictions
23 "Eyeless in __"
24 Port of Algeria
25 Diana of "The Avengers"
27 At the ready
30 Repeat showing
31 Like lesser wines
33 Admiration
36 Extra wages
38 Ms. McEntire
39 List entry
40 Movie dog
42 Insurance statistician
43 Good points
44 Shudders at
45 Harmony music genre
46 Artillery burst
47 Approve
51 Purple haze
53 Mutt of Garfield's jokes
55 "__ Be Cruel"
58 Little shaver
59 "Poison" singers Bell __ DeVoe
60 Luau souvenir
61 Compass dir.

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

E	L	S		T	A	U	N	T	S		M	A	N	S
R	E	O		A	S	S	E	R	T		O	B	O	E
S	A	M		T	H	E	W	A	Y		R	U	N	E
T	R	E	A	T			S	P	L	A	T	T	E	R
			P	L	O	T			E	X	I	S	T	S
T	O	K	E	E	P	A	C	A	T	I	S			
A	B	E		R	U	R	A	L		S	E	N	S	E
B	E	E	R		S	T	R	E	P		S	C	A	R
S	Y	N	O	D		A	E	R	I	E		A	N	N
			T	O	T	R	Y	T	O	C	H	A	S	E
S	A	H	A	R	A			S	N	O	B			
P	L	A	T	Y	P	U	S			T	O	R	C	H
A	L	T	O		I	T	A	W	A	Y		E	R	A
D	E	E	R		R	E	V	A	M	P		P	E	R
E	N	D	S		S	P	E	C	I	E		O	W	E

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6/8/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: Because you have strong opinions, you try to enlighten others. At times you're lighthearted and childlike; at other times, you're forceful and serious. You're very sure about what you believe in. You have a fine, analytical mind, which is nicely balanced with a touch of whimsy. The year ahead is wonderfully social. It favors couples and pleasant, entertaining times.

Birthdate of: Natalie Portman, actress; Johnny Depp, actor; Michael J. Fox, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Family gatherings are enthusiastic and enjoyable. People are in a good mood. It's a great day to make big improvements at home or to have a celebration.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Your mind is very bright and sharp today. You're open to all kinds of possibilities. Because you're confident and optimistic, you can make wonderful plans.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Business and commerce are extremely favored today. You can definitely make money. Trust your money-making ideas. You might also want to make a major purchase.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Today you really feel the power of positive thinking. Because of this, you can turn any situation to your best advantage. You're also very persuasive (in a positive way) with others

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You feel supremely content with the world today. You have faith in your own future. You know that the only thing you have to take care of is the present moment. (Everything else is a hope or a memory)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You have no trouble getting others to go along with your ideas today. Talk to groups, clubs and organizations. Friends are willing to listen to you now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Bosses, VIPs, parents and other important people look upon you very favorably today. They see you in positive terms. In fact, others want to be in your company now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You'll adore learning anything new today. It's a wonderful time to study philosophy, religion, politics or any subject that interests you. Make travel plans as well.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a good day for agreements, contracts and deciding how to spend a specific allotted amount of money. You feel generous to others.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Difficulties with friends and partners can be ironed out today. People feel openhearted and warm to each other. Cooperation is easy to achieve.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Coworkers are extremely cooperative today. People will help you do whatever you want to get done. Work-related travel is also likely. This is the day to present your ideas to others

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is a wonderful, playful, creative day! It's an excellent day for romance and love affairs. Playful activities with children will delight you. All the arts can prosper!

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

by Dave Green

			1	8		5		
	3						9	
7				6				
				5				6
6		1				7		4
9				2				
				7				9
	6						4	
		5		3	9			

Difficulty Level ★★★★

6/09

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits
1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

3	8	9	6	7	5	4	2	1
4	2	5	3	1	8	9	7	6
1	7	6	9	2	4	8	3	5
8	1	3	7	9	2	5	6	4
9	5	2	4	6	1	3	8	7
6	4	7	8	5	3	1	9	2
2	9	1	5	3	7	6	4	8
7	6	8	1	4	9	2	5	3
5	3	4	2	8	6	7	1	9

Difficulty Level ★★★

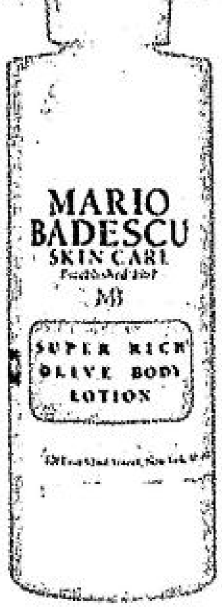
6/08

Dr. Andrew
WEIL for Origins
Plantidote
Mega-Mushroom
Face Serum

DR. Weil Face Serum

TACT
BEAUTY CARE
Net Wt 125g/4.4oz
Pure olive oil soap Fragrance Free

TACT Olive Oil soap



MARIO Badescu Super Rich Olive Body Lotion

No-frills skincare for Dad

SOME MEN MAY RELENT TO A SKINCARE regimen for their face, but they do so oh-so-reluctantly. They usually don't act at all or just start doing something about their face when the ravages of time and the environment have become so obvious.

Dads don't like to fuss with elaborate steps, are turned off by high price tags, and abhor the girly packaging. Even those labeled "Skincare for Men" by girly cosmetic brands make them cringe.

But there are men's cosmetic brands that are encased in very functional packaging, and they actually look masculine.

Mario Badescu men's grooming basics, which Dad can just bring for business trips or leave on his side of the sink, contains an 8 oz. enzyme cleansing gel that cleanses and exfoliates in one go and is so much better than soap for his skin. There's also a 4 oz. shaving cream, 4 oz. almond and honey face scrub, and a 2 oz. protein after-shave lotion that's good for all skin types. The kit retails for P3,750 at Essenses.

The Origins Plantidote Mega Mushroom program was made by a man—famous botanist Dr. Andrew Weil. Skin that has a poor immune system is inflamed, so there is skin redness, soreness, sensitivity, and excessive dryness. The Mushroom program is designed to repair Dad's (and Mom's) skin from years of neglect or hormonal fluctuations.

Mega Mushroom face serum (P3,500 for 1 oz.) is applied day and night over your toner or cleanser to optimize the skin's defense against aging. It soothes the redness and makes skin more even toned, giving it a healthy glow.

I use this after waxing my eyebrows, upper lip and even bikini area, and the redness and discomfort goes away. Follow with the Mega Mushroom Face Cream (P4,100 at 1.7 oz) to seal in the serum and fight off free radicals that cause skin aging.

What I like best about this program is that it firms the skin and hydrates the thirsty, damaged areas. I apply it on face, neck and back of hands. The face serum and face cream are both very concentrated and require only very small amounts to do its job, so warn Dad not to use too much.

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

If Dad doesn't suffer from redness but is concerned about skin laxity or loss of firmness and lines, he will be happy with Avon's Anew-Force extra triple lifting night cream (P999), Lifetime Day Firming Cream (P3,700) with Alpha lipoic acid and DMAE serum, which are all available at any Health Express, and copper peptide firming serum for day.

Neutral packaging

Also, try convincing Dad to switch to a liquid cleanser and non-alcohol toner. The Mario Badescu enzyme cleanser and glycolic toner are good choices for most skin types. Celeteque face wash, Physiogel and Cetaphil are great for cleansing very sensitive skin and they come in very neutral packaging. Prices are not heart-attack inducing, either.

Now let's tackle Dad's skin products for the body. Many dads who have dry skin refuse to use shower gel because it smells too girly and clash with their cologne. They end up scratching moisture-deprived areas like their arms and legs.

One scent guys like because it simply smells clean is olive oil-based bath products. Greek men, who I personally think are the most handsome and masculine of the species, are big on olive body products.

The newest brand from Essenses is Tact, which comes in generous portions but is very concentrated. It is reasonably priced and uses a generous amount of essential oils. If dad is still resistant to shower gel, get him the soap. The lotion is a must for skin comfort, and if he is too lazy to use cologne the lotion will give him a clean scent the whole day. If his skin is extra dry, throw in the olive body scrub to remove dry, dead skin.

Also try The Body Shop olive oil line of shower gel, body butter, scrub and oil spray mist. Mario Badescu olive body lotion also has a lasting clean scent that is non-greasy, but penetrates the driest skin.

For Avon call 8642900. For copper peptide, call Jeunesse Manila at 6888062.

E-mail the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com

MODELS exhibit hair creations made by top stylists with the help of Davines Wizards.

Tools for hair wizards

TEN OF THE METRO'S TRENDIEST hairstyle wizards experienced firsthand the magic of Davines for Wizards when Davines hosted a well-received trade show at the Atrium of the Shangri-La Plaza Hotel.

Jacquelyn Tan, Davines Philippines business unit manager, said Davines for Wizards was a complete line of tools for hairdressers to enable them to create their own masterpieces."

The hairstylists were Davines national master trainer John Magno; Basement Salon Shangri-La Plaza's Stefan Wilczynski; Piandre Salon's Andrea Zulueta; Salon de Ken's Louis Kee; Basement Salon Rockwell's Angelo Justin; Salon de Manila (ojo-no name); Emphasis Salon's Victor Ortega; Bench Fix Greenbelt's Philippe Tordjman; David Salon's David Charlton; and Studio 546's Eric Maningat.

Representing the essence of being a wizard was visual artist Robby Mananquil, who rendered an on-the-spot sketch at the start of the show.

Finest Oil Non Oil fluid gives styled tresses a gentle hold and protection against frizz. Mat Moulding Gesso provides lasting hold with a matte finish. Shea butter-enriched Glossy Plasteline provides the same firm hold, but with a pleasant sheen. The Universal Body Mousse gives control and volume to fine hair. Glossy Modeling Putty leaves hair soft and shiny. Mat Pliable Stucco gives locks a matte look. Crystal Fixative Lacquer's formulation moisturizes the hair while reducing flakes and hair build-up that is usually associated with other hair sprays.

The Quick Setting Hard Gel gives the hair a semi-matte effect when applied on dry hair, and an ultra-wet look when applied on wet hair. Structuring Mist is a medium hold, no-gas hair spray that leaves no irritating residue on tresses. Completing the line is the Universal Polishing Coat, solid silicone drops for light control, shine and softness on hair.

The Davines Styling and Finishing Tools for Wizards are now available in premiere salons across the metropolis and in key cities in Asia. Call 6870424/6871156.

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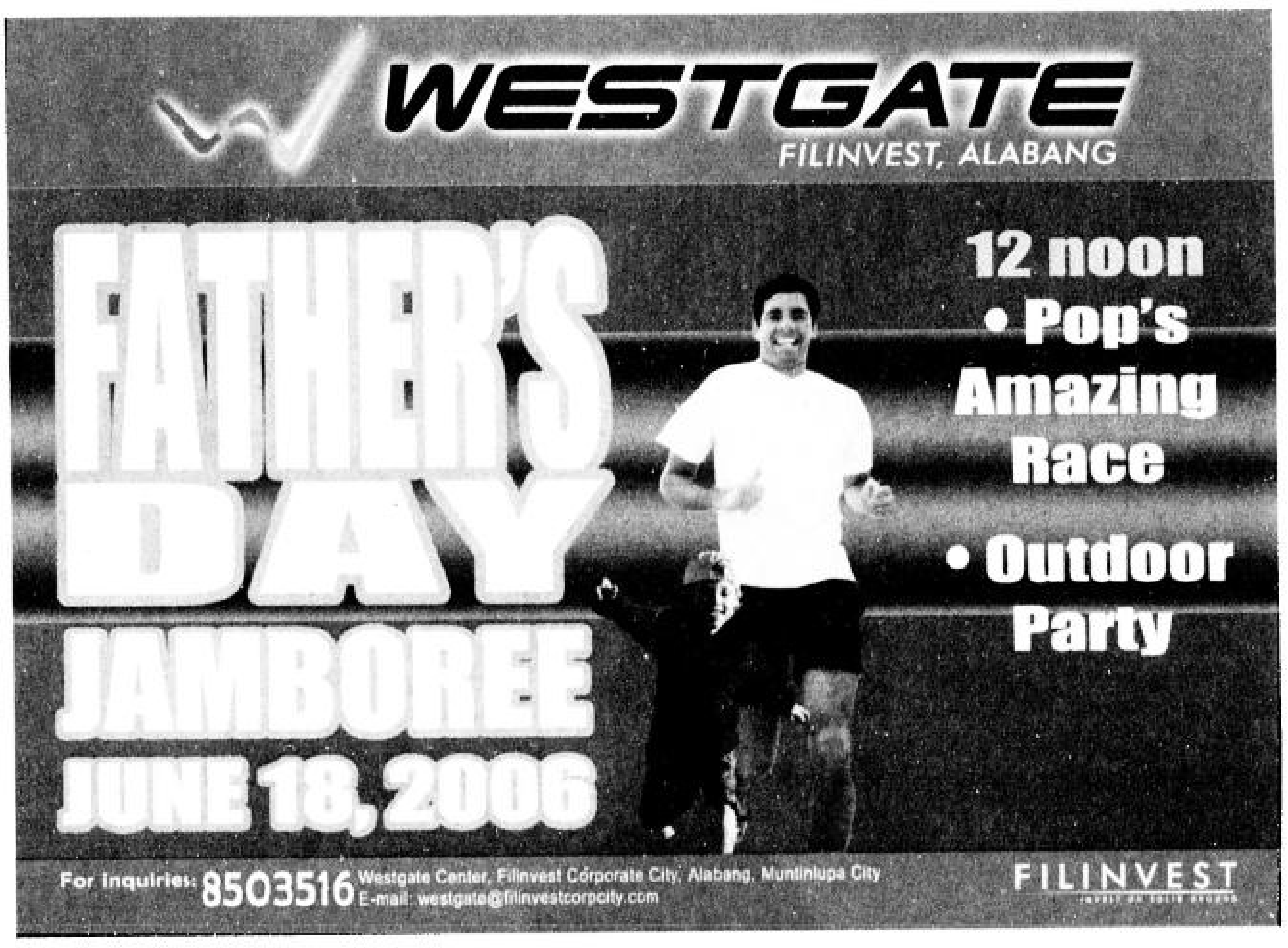
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E-mail: westgate@filinvestcorpcity.com
FILINVEST

Have a Blast with DAD on
Father's Day
at SM Supermalls
On June 18, 2006, spend the whole day with Dad at SM Supermalls!
Take Dad shopping in his favorite stores, treat him to great-tasting food in trendy restaurants, watch a great movie and enjoy exciting activities together like listening to musical artists perform and much much more! Make it the most memorable Father's Day for Dad and the whole family only at SM Supermalls!
TAKE DAD shopping
JUNE 18, 2006
Happy Father's Day
Treat him to his favorite FOOD
Watch a movie TOGETHER
Buy him a long wished-for GIFT
SM SUPERMALLS
WOW

New store branch in Pampanga

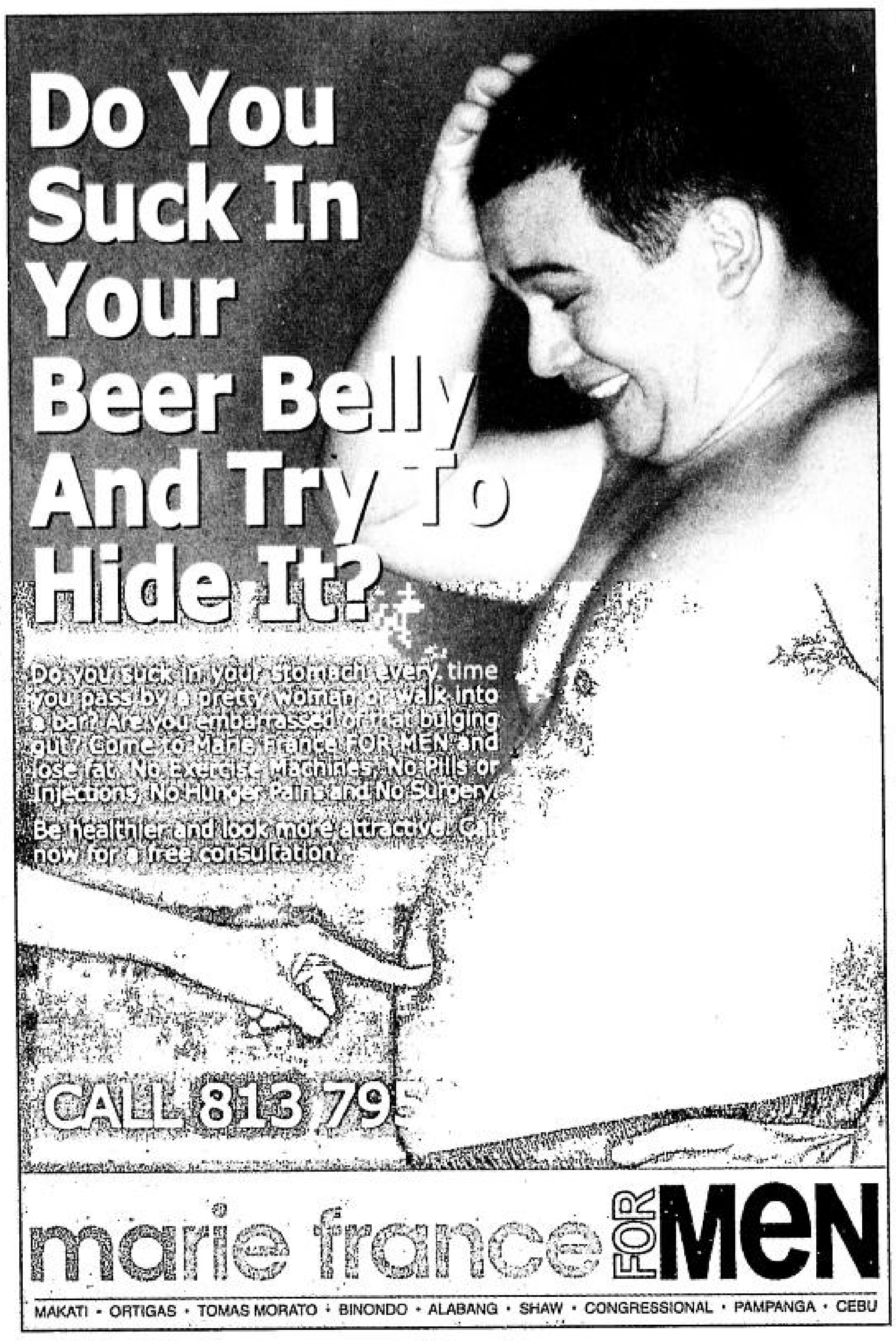
MARKS & SPENCER HAS OPENED A store in SM Pampanga. The store carries the brand's latest in menswear, ladieswear, lingerie and toiletries. Other Marks & Spencer stores are at Shangri-La Plaza, Glorietta 4, Greenbelt 3, Alabang Town Center, Power Plant Mall, Gateway Mall, SM Megamall, SM North Edsa, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila, Harrison Plaza and Ayala Center Cebu.

SPECIAL OFFER. Jewelmer presents "Strand Sensation," until Aug. 28. Every purchase of natural-colored South Sea Pearl strand during the "Strand Sensation" period entitles customers with a Jewelmer gift certificate. Participating Jewelmer shops are at Manila Peninsula Hotel, Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Makati Shangri-La Hotel, Alabang Town Center, Glorietta 4, SM Megamall, The Podium, Ayala Center Cebu and Head Office. Call 8925609 or fax 8189778.

PROMO. Secondo Time Pieces offers free one-month interest on jewelry and Swiss watch loans. If a customer pays the first month's interest in advance, the second month's interest is free for loans of up to P20,000. The offer is until July 15. Secondo is at 2/L, Jewelry Row, Glorietta 1, Ayala Center, Makati. Call 8940282.

SILVERY SUMMER. Michelis' summer silver collection can bring the same summery vibrancy to any outfit. Motifs of flowers, butterflies and animal shapes inspire the new collection. Michelis offers jewelry that ranges from the classic to the flamboyant. It is up to you to choose the pieces that match your personality. Unique and striking earrings, bracelets, necklaces and rings will always make the ultimate statement, especially under the sun.

GIFT VOUCHERS. Shangri-La Plaza is holding until June 12 "Gifts of Indulgences," a promo encouraging shopping at Level 3's fashion stores. Customers get cash vouchers and gift certificates worth P300 for every P3,000 single purchase. The vouchers and certificates can be used on their next visit to the same store. Redemption is until Aug. 31. A fashion exhibit features the latest clothes, footwear and accessories from participating Indulgences stores. Call 6337851 to 70.


Do You Suck In Your Beer Belly And Try To Hide It?

Do you suck in your stomach every time you pass by a pretty woman or walk into a bar? Are you embarrassed of that bulging gut? Come to Marie France FOR MEN and lose fat. No Exercise Machines, No Pills or Injections, No Hunger Pains and No Surgery.

Be healthier and look more attractive. Call now for a free consultation.

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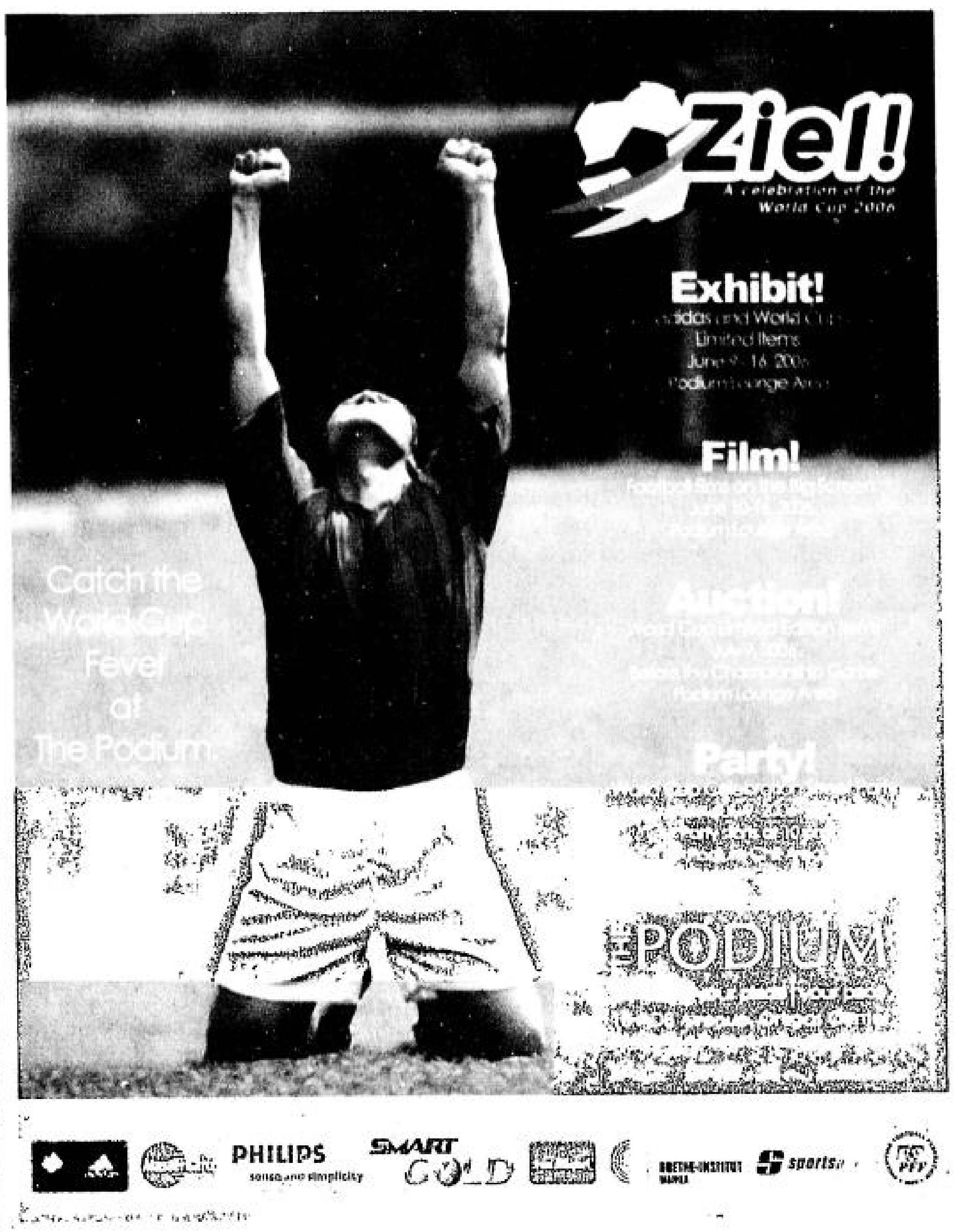
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